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平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可 日本郵便株式会社 2月26日発行
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号

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President denounces assault on Kerry's military record Page 10

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Sasebo keeps visiting Stennis sailors entertained with full slate of activities

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PHOTOS BY GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

With the USS Steambarrier Strike Group making a port call at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, this week, plenty of activities have been planned to keep the sailors busy. Left: The Strongman Contest featured contestants pulling a security vehicle Sunday, including Siermans Fireman Joshua Soderberg. He said it was such fun he'd like to do it again. Above: The 7th Fleet "Orient Express" band entertained Sunday night at Nimitz Park. The horn players, from left, are Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Palm on trombone, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Givens on trumpet and Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald J. Pitts II on saxophone. They played a variety of contemporary and classic rock tunes.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Peterson murder trial: The much-anticipated cross-examination of Scott Peterson's former lover, Amber Frey, was delayed Monday in Redwood City, Calif., so a telephone company official who came from Florida could testify first.

Mary Anderson, of West Palm Beach, Fla., works for AT&T Wireless as the director of national subpoena and court order compliance. Anderson testified about Peterson's cell phone records in the days after his pregnant wife, Laci, vanished. Authorities used cell phone towers to track Peterson's calls and movements on Dec. 24, 2002, the day Peterson reported his wife missing.



Peterson

Crematory trial begins: It was a scene too horrible to imagine: heaps of decaying bodies that were supposed to be cremated — many spilling out of a storage shed, scattered around a crematory building and in nearby woods.

A civil lawsuit against former operator Brent Marsh and the estate of his late father, former owner Ray Brent Marsh, was to go to trial Monday, 2½ years after the remains were discovered at the Tri-State Crematory in Noble, near the Tennessee line.

Investigators found heaps of decaying bodies from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Rescue dogs' deaths studied: Fourteen search and rescue dogs have died since their exposure to toxic rubble from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack — including eight from cancer, according to a study by the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. But researchers believe there is no connection between the deaths and the chemicals they were exposed to.

Despite the study's findings, some of the owners whose dogs have died still blame the toxic brew the dogs immersed themselves in during the hunt for survivors and remains.

World

N. Korea takes swipe at Bush: North Korea lashed out Monday at President Bush for turning "a peaceful world into a pandemonium unprecedented in history," and re-



Pakistani-Afghan talks: Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, left, greets Afghan President Hamid Karzai, upon his arrival Monday in Islamabad, Pakistan. Karzai arrived for a two-day visit for talks on economic cooperation and fighting terrorism. Ties have been strained by allegations from Afghan officials that Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents stage attacks from Pakistan's western tribal regions.

affirmed it won't attend preparatory meetings ahead of planned nuclear disarmament talks.

Last week, Bush referred to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il as a "tyrant," and said he had embarked on six-nation talks to convince Kim to disarm because the United States couldn't do it alone. The next round of talks — which also include China, Japan, Russia and South Korea — are supposed to take place by the end of September.

Bird flu found in pigs: China said Monday that a deadly strain of bird flu that killed 27 people in Asia was found in Chinese pigs last year, but denied that the animals had the disease this year. The World Health Organization warned that it could take several years to contain the epidemic.

A new outbreak of the virulent H5N1 strain of avian influenza in Malaysia and flare-ups in Thailand and Vietnam indicate the disease may be entrenched in parts of Asia, a WHO official said. In addition, researchers in northeastern China said last

week that they found H5N1 in pigs, which are genetically similar to humans.

Activists march in Bangladesh: Thousands of opposition supporters marched through the Bangladeshi capital Monday to protest a weekend attack on a political rally that killed 19 and wounded hundreds.

On Monday, nearly 6,000 Awami League supporters, led by some senior party leaders, paraded through downtown Dhaka, shouting slogans demanding Prime Minister Khaleda Zia resign. Hundreds of riot police stood by, but there were no immediate reports of violence.

War on Terrorism

Four dead in raid: Pakistani troops acting on a tip raided a terrorist hide-out in a remote tribal region near Afghanistan on Monday, sparking a shootout in which at least four foreign fighters were killed and several others wounded, an army spokesman said.

Stories and photo from wire reports

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Stennis visitors enjoy leisure in Sasebo

Tours, souvenir shopping, skills challenges popular with sailors

BY GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The visiting sailors here from the USS Stennis Carrier Strike Group are taking advantage of the leisure-time activities organized by base officials.

The USS Stennis, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with a crew of about 6,200, the USS Howard, with about 380 crew members, and the USS Rainier, with 176 civilian and 59 military crew members, arrived Saturday for a port call. Officials won't confirm when the Stennis is leaving port, but special activities are planned through Tuesday night.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Navy Exchange and other personnel in Sasebo spent much of the past few weeks planning for the influx of sailors.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Gustavo Ortiz, from the Stennis, strolled out of the NEX main store carrying two boxes and a big shopping bag full of souvenirs Monday. The boxes each contained a samurai sword.

"I've never been to Japan before, and I like these as souvenirs," Ortiz said. "I like it here, and I actually thought about trying to get stationed out here one time."

"I had to work the first day here, but I went to the club last night (Galaxies Club) and had a good time. I'm planning on taking a tour into Nagasaki next, probably Tuesday," he added.

Many visiting sailors are interested in the tours, said Mike Rodriguez, MWR's Travel and Tours Office director. He spent much of Monday distributing flyers and answering questions about all that's available in and around Sasebo.

"They're really been filling up for the tours we've planned ... by the busload," he said. "The Liberty launches bring them to the Fleet Landing. They catch us there and come right over looking for something they'd like to see."

Rodriguez said some of the most popular tour destinations are Nagasaki, Beppu and its famous natural hot springs, Kumamoto and Sasebo city.

"They've come back saying they loved the trips ... they've really enjoyed the bubbling hot springs in Beppu. Most of them are taking the tours or just relaxing on base, having a good meal or a cold beer."

Harbor View Club manager Kevin Dugan and staff served about double the normal crowd each dining period.

"Overall, things have really picked up. At our Sunday Champagne Brunch, we had a large crowd," he said. "It wasn't quite double our usual crowd but a significant increase, and our bars have been a big hit."

"They've enjoyed themselves, and also we've really enjoyed serving them and seeing all the new faces," he said, adding that



PHOTOS BY GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Above left: Petty Officer 3rd Class Shane Waddell of the USS Stennis lets rip a pitch Sunday that was clocked at 66 miles per hour by the Power Pitching Contest at Sasebo Naval Base. The Stennis has been visiting Sasebo since Saturday. Above right: Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Stark, singer with the Seventh Fleet "Orient Express" Band, worked up a sweat Sunday night at Nimitz Park at the base. The band performed a variety of contemporary and classic rock tunes. Below: Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Flowers and Petty Officer 3rd Class Amber Beach, from the USS Stennis, enjoy shopping Monday afternoon at one of several Navy Exchange outdoor sales at the base.

another big crowd was expected Tuesday night for dinner and "Comedy Night" with comedians Mark Yaffee and Tommy Savitt.

The outdoor activities were to continue through Tuesday night. Softball and basketball tournaments started during the weekend along with skill challenges in strength, golf, even pitching a baseball.

Stennis Fireman Joshua Soderberg was harnessed to a security department vehicle as he strained to pull it down the street during a Strongman Challenge.

"I had fun doing it, and I loved it," Soderberg said. "I was actually the first and only person to sign up, then I talked with a couple of other guys and I convinced them to sign up. I'd do it again."

Visiting golfers tested their swing in the Golf Challenge. Petty Officer 3rd Class Todd Mullis from the Stennis hit a drive electronically measured at 277 yards.

As for the port call, his mind remained on golf.

"I've been to Japan before. I've also started collecting golf balls from courses in different parts of the world. I plan to go to a course around here," Mullis added.



The Stennis is deployed in the western Pacific Ocean after taking part in a series of exercises in Alaska and Hawaii. The Stennis and USS Kitty Hawk carrier strike groups completed the Joint Air and Sea Ex-

ercise 2004 on Aug. 15. Both carriers also have taken part in the Summer Pulse '04 exercise.

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Iwakuni lunch prices rising

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station's Marine Corps Community Services plans the same school meal program price increases announced by Army and Air Force Exchange Services, a spokeswoman said Monday.

MCSS operates the school meal program for the Matthew C. Perry schools.

The AAFES overseas school meal program will increase by 10 cents this year. Elementary school student meals will be \$2.05 and middle- and high-school meals will be \$2.20.

"We run the program here, but basically we mirror everything they do ... why reinvent the wheel?" said Ashleigh Pipes, Iwakuni's MCSS marketing director. "We don't operate to make a profit. The increase will help us to break even."

Essex ARG, Marines deploy

The Essex Amphibious Ready Group and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed Monday to support operations in the Middle East, Navy officials announced.

The short-notice deployment order is part of repositioning military forces fight-

ing terrorism in the area including the Middle East, according to an Amphibious Group One release.

The Essex ARG comprises the Essex, USS Juneau, USS Fort McHenry and USS Harpers Ferry.

McCaun has new commander

Cmdr. William Wagner took command of USS John S. McCaun in an underway change-of-command ceremony on the destroyer's flight deck Aug. 15.

Wagner, the former force and deputy operations and plans officer of Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, assumed command from

Cmdr. Kevin Campbell, who moves to Cruiser Destroyer Group 3 as a surface operations officer.

The new commander has operational experience in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Atlantic and Southwest Asia regions, according to a Navy news release. The Pittsburgh native has taken part in operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Southern Watch, and enforcing United Nations sanctions against Haiti and Iraq.

The McCaun currently is underway in the Western Pacific. The ship, part of Destroyer Squadron 15, operates from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

From staff reports

Guam cleaning up after Chaba blows by

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

The Navy and Air Force on Guam spent Monday mopping up and assessing damage after Typhoon Chaba's eye passed about 85 miles northeast of the island Sunday night.

Damage was minimal on Commander Daniel Forces Marianas, officials reported, but the storm forced the base to shut off its water treatment plant, order water restrictions and urge all personnel and families to conserve water.

Water on base was to be turned off from 9 p.m. Monday until 10 a.m. Tuesday, Naval Base Guam announced Monday.

"Right now, we are not producing any water," Senior Chief Petty Officer Jonathan Annis, a base spokesman, said Monday afternoon.

Too much sediment in the Navy water supply, brought on by weeks of rainy weather and Typhoon Chaba, is making it difficult to filter and treat the water, he said.

Base residents and workers still have tap water from reserve tanks but even when water is turned on, "all areas will be experiencing reduced water pressure," Navy officials stated in a news release Monday.

"We tried to fill up the tanks before the typhoon came along, but there's a very limited amount of water in the system," Annis said.

Public works engineers are laboring to

Typhoon causes sediment build-up; naval base forced to shut off water

reduce water turbidity in the treatment plant 24 hours a day, Annis said. But if the problem isn't fixed soon or if people don't conserve water, "we may have some water shortages," he said.

He noted that Navy personnel and families on Guam typically drink bottled water.

Navy officials didn't specify water conservation measures in the release but Annis said to use common sense.

People need to not be washing their cars, for example," he said.

He said other water treatment plants on the island are experiencing similar problems.

Chaba made its closest approach to Guam around 11 p.m. Sunday, according to the Pacific Daily News, packing peak winds of 61 mph, flooding roads and homes and forcing about 2,000 residents into typhoon shelters. Gov. Felix Camacho on Sunday declared a state of emergency for Guam and authorized up to \$250,000 for emergency civil defense, public safety and health-care costs, the newspaper reported.

The storm damaged some buildings on Andersen Air Force Base, blew a few trees onto palms and littered the ground with palm fronds.

The beacon on the air traffic control tower was damaged but was working again

Monday afternoon, said Maj. Kris Meyle, base spokeswoman. Airfield operations were expected to resume Monday evening. Andersen moved its aircraft to other locations over the weekend; the six rotational B-52 bombers from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., waited out the storm at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.

The roof of the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5 hangar was seriously damaged, Meyle said. Four trees that fell on houses were cleared by Monday afternoon; no injuries or major structural damages were reported.

Other damage included some downed phone boxes, power lines and signs. Also, the base's wind measuring equipment broke during the storm.

Meyle said Monday that Andersen officials still were compiling the storm damage dollar amount.

Andersen lost power around 7:30 Sunday night, but electricity was restored for about 90 percent of the population as of late Monday afternoon.

Meyle said base preparation for the typhoon and the recovery afterward "could not have been smoother. We knew about this storm Friday, that there was a very good possibility that it could track close to Guam."

Tuesday was to be a regular duty day for Andersen personnel and base facilities were to reopen.

At Marianas, all Naval Hospital personnel and essential personnel on other naval installations were to report to work as normal Tuesday morning; other military and civil service personnel were to start their duty day at 12:30 p.m.

The main base front gate detour is now open. On Monday, the main base gas station was the only facility open at the main base. The back gate was expected to be open at the normal time. Club Rumours and the Child Development Center were to open at their normal times.

The Navy Exchange was expected to open for normal business on Tuesday, the Commissary, on Wednesday.

Schools on Andersen were to be open Tuesday, while McCool Elementary and Middle schools and Guam High School were to remain closed. The Navy commissary was to reopen Wednesday.

Typhoon Chaba curtailed the USS Kitty Hawk's visit. The aircraft carrier from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, arrived Aug. 19 and was to stay in Guam for several days, but it returned to sea early Saturday due to the storm's approach. Navy officials said in a release.

Sailors on Guam who missed movement with ships were to report immediately to their ship representative in the Guam Outrigger Resort lobby or to call their Navy Representatives at DSN 727-3017/7084/3208 for further instruction.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@pstripes.osd.mil

Royal Maces to return to Atsugi with new F/A-18E Super Hornets

BY JULIANA GITTER

Stars and Stripes

In a move Navy leaders said will strengthen the U.S. commitment to peace in Asia, a new squadron of F/A-18 Super Hornets is to arrive at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, next month.

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 27, the Royal Maces, is in transition from the F/A-18A Hornet to the F/A-18E Super Hornet.

The squadron will return to Atsugi in late September after training in Lemoore Naval Air Station in California.

"Replacing the F/A-18C at NAF Atsugi with the F/A-18E demonstrates continuing U.S. commitment to peace and regional security through strengthened capabilities," a news release stated.

The Super Hornet, the Navy's newest strike fighter, is 25 percent larger than its predecessor, the F/A-18; it offers increased range, greater endurance and more powerful engines and can carry more payload, according to the Navy.

In 1991, the squadron switched to the then-new F/A-18A Hornet and sailed aboard the USS Kitty Hawk throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans. The squadron moved to Atsugi in 1996.

VFA-27's change is part of a gradual evolution in Carrier Air Wing 5, which is assigned to the Kitty Hawk. Navy officials said.



Last September, the F-4 Tomcat squadron VF-154 left Atsugi for Lemoore to transform into a Super Hornet squadron. It was replaced by the F/A-18C Super Hornet squadron VFA-102.

Navy leaders also announced that the Fighting Redtails of Sea Control Squadron (VSN) 21, which flies the S-3B Viking, will be decommissioned in January. A replacement has not been announced.

Other aircraft in the wing will take over some of the S-3's roles, officials said, including refueling and antisubmarine warfare.

During retraining at Lemoore, the Royal Maces remained headquartered at Atsugi.

The change won't affect the number of people assigned to base or the squadron size, officials said.

E-mail Juliana Gitter at: gitter@pstripes.osd.mil

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Army judge seeks to expedite investigations

Sets Sept. 10 deadline for reports on Abu Ghraib

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — An Army judge threatened to dismiss charges against one of the alleged ringleaders in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal unless the government speeds up several key investigations into the case.

The military judge, Col. James Pohl, told prosecutors he would "seriously consider" dropping charges against Spc. Charles A. Graner Jr., an Army reservist with the 32nd Military Police Company, unless significant progress was made in releasing four reports by Sept. 10.

Guy Womack, a retired Marine colonel who is representing Graner, said the investigations will help prove his client is being turned into a scapegoat for the Army.

Womack said that Graner and the other MPs charged in the case were simply following orders from senior Army brass and civilian contractors at Abu Ghraib.

Army reservist may enter guilty plea

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — One of the Army reservists charged with abusing Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison said Monday that he will plead guilty to some offenses.

Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick, of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company, said in a statement given to The Associated Press: "I have accepted responsibility for my actions at Abu Ghraib prison. I will be pleading guilty to certain charges because I have concluded that what I did was a violation of law."

Frederick, 37, has a pretrial hearing scheduled for Tuesday in Mannheim, Germany.

Court-martial begins for Marine

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Military authorities began their case Monday of a Marine Reserve sergeant charged with assaulting an Iraqi prisoner of war who later died, and a judge ruled the defense could present testimony that contradicts a key witness.

The court-martial of Sgt. Gary Pittman in the

Womack points to Lt. Col. Steve Jordan, who was responsible for overseeing the intelligence contractors, as the real culprit in the scandal.

Womack said Col. Thomas Pappas of the Darmstadt, Germany-205th Military Intelligence Brigade, another leader at the prison at the time, was likely involved as well.

"This may go all the way to [V Corps commander Lt. Gen. Ricar-

do] Sanchez, but frankly I doubt it," Womack told Stars and Stripes.

Womack had been slated to depose Sanchez at his Heidelberg headquarters on Thursday and Friday, but at the last minute, he said, Sanchez canceled the interview without explanation.

"I think he's just trying to avoid us," said Womack.

Womack had also hoped to interview Pappas under oath in Ger-

many, but the intelligence officer "exercised his constitutional right not to incriminate himself," said Womack.

V Corps officials in Germany were unable to comment on Sanchez's schedule or Pappas' decision and referred questions to a Baghdad-based Army spokesman.

He was unavailable for comment.

Graner, however, had no choice. He appeared before Pohl on Monday in preliminary hearings in Taylor Barracks in Man-

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nheim. Pohl dismissed motions by Womack to suppress evidence found on the laptop of the 35-year-old military policeman.

The hearing was one of four slated Monday and Tuesday. Sgt. Javal S. Davis, Spc. Megan M. Ambuhl and Staff Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick also are scheduled to appear.

The next round of pretrial hearings in Graner's case is slated for Oct. 21 in Baghdad. Those hearings will address whether top leaders in Iraq, including Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, who replaced Sanchez as commander of warfighting units in Iraq, have improperly tried to influence the legal proceedings against Graner.

In the meantime, Pohl said, he wants to see progress on the four investigations.

One of those investigations, a report by Maj. Gen. George Fay into the abuse at the prison, was supposed to be released last month, said Army prosecutors.

The report is now with the commander of the Army Materiel Command, Gen. Paul Kern, said prosecutors, where it is being briefed to top Army leaders before its release.

Several news organizations in recent days already have reported its major findings.

The Army Criminal Investigation Command also is investigating several of its intelligence agents for possible abuse, said prosecutors.

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Bush says progress being made in Iraq

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush said U.S.-led forces were "making progress" in Iraq where Marines were engaged in fierce battles with followers of a radical cleric holed up in the holy city of Najaf.

"We talked about Iraq, moving forward in Iraq," and helping the Iraqis secure the nation as it approaches elections, Bush said here after mapping defense strategy for more than three hours with top national security officials. "We're making progress on the ground."

Democrat John Kerry's national security adviser has accused the president of not doing enough to make the nation safer, especially in view of recommendations from the bipartisan commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Bush emerged in shirt sleeves and boots from his meeting at a small house on his ranch, telling reporters that he and his advisers also discussed how to position troops around the world and intelligence reform.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., on Sunday offered the most sweeping reorganization proposal by anyone since the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He called for major changes, including transferring control

of the nation's major intelligence gathering from the CIA and the Pentagon to a new national intelligence director.

Bush said he hadn't seen Roberts' proposal, but would review it.

"There's a lot of ideas moving around. And we've got a lot of smart people looking at the best way to fulfill our intelligence as the president and his Cabinet secretaries have got the ability to make good judgment calls on behalf of the American people."

He said that while he has called for the creation of a national intelligence director, he's not in favor of "anything standing in between me and my line operators like the secretary of defense."

"In other words, once intelligence is in place and once we come up with a decision as to how to act, I want to make sure the person responsible for the actions has a direct report to me," he said.

Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice were among those who attended the defense policy meeting at the president's ranch.

Gen. George Casey, the senior U.S. officer in Iraq, and Gen. John Abizaid, head of the U.S. Central Command, participated in part of the meeting via a secure video conference.



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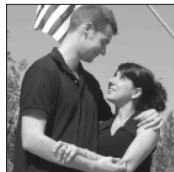
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Army Spc. Robert Hall, left, and new wife Vivian Mansour.

Army reservist weds Baghdad bride in Wash.

The Associated Press

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. — A Washington state soldier has married the Iraqi woman he met and fell in love with while in Baghdad.

Spc. Robert Hall, 23, says he knew within a month that he would marry Vivian Mansour, 21, of Baghdad, even though at first neither spoke a word of each other's language.

Hall, an Army reservist who earned a Bronze Star for meritorious service during his one-year tour, said he's never been happier.

The two were married Saturday.

"I never in my life saw this coming," he said.

For them, cultural differences are offset by a shared Christian faith. Mansour is a Kurdish Christian — a population that makes up just 3 percent of Iraq's 24 million people.

"Our cultures are different, but the way we look at it, we're both children of God," Hall said.

The Christian population was persecuted by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime, but after his ouster they have been targeted by other groups.

A recent wave of church bombings has prompted about 40,000 Iraqi Christians to leave the country.

Mansour's family has been in danger not only because of their faith, but because they worked for the U.S. military.

Hall was with the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, which set up camp inside the Baghdad palace complex.

The battalion worked closely with Iraqis, helping to resolve infrastructure problems and clear weapons caches.

He met Mansour — and her mother and sister — when they were hired as cleaning women.

"Every time she came over, I kind of followed her and watched her clean," Hall said.

"Yes, everywhere," Mansour recalled, laughing.

He met with his unit's attorney to make sure the interactions were legal.

The couple met in open settings when Hall was off duty.

Mansour, who had never before left Baghdad, misses her parents, her sister and four brothers.

Relatives from San Diego flew north to attend the wedding.

Hall says his main focus initially will be to help her feel at home.

Mansour's English is still a work in progress, but she says knowing what attracted her to Hall.

"Heart first," she said, pointing to her chest.

Heavy fighting continues in Najaf

Militant says shrine's golden dome, minaret hit by shrapnel

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — U.S. forces and Shiite militants fought fierce battles Monday marked by explosions and gunfire near a revered shrine in Najaf, as the U.S. military stepped up pressure on the insurgents to quickly hand over the holy site to Shiite religious authorities.

Tanks approached within 250 yards of the Imam Ali Shrine, where many militants have sought refuge, the closest they have come to the compound in recent days. U.S. snipers were on rooftops around the shrine, witnesses said.

Gunfire rang throughout the streets and black smoke rose over the Old City neighborhood, where much of the fighting has been centered. Earlier Monday, militants fired mortars at U.S. troops, who responded with artillery, residents said.

Ahmed al-Shaibani, an aide to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, said shrapnel from the U.S. attack hit the shrine's golden dome, one of its minarets and the compound's outer wall.

The U.S. military denied damaging the shrine and said an air crew saw militants in the compound fire a rocket that clipped one of the walls and explode 10 yards outside.

Marine Maj. Jay Antonelli said militants hiding in a parking garage 400 yards from the shrine's outer wall fired rocket-propelled grenades and sniper rifles at U.S. troops, who responded with artillery and mortars.

Speaking in Baghdad, Antonelli said U.S. troops were trying to secure the city, but were being fired at from the shrine compound and other areas. "We're not doing any offensive operations. This is all in response to them," he said.

Antonelli also said militants within the shrine's walls fired 120 mm mortars at the governor's office in Najaf. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attack.

The size of the militant force in the Old City appeared to have greatly decreased Monday with the U.S. advance, witnesses said. Militant medical officials said at least two insurgents were killed and four others injured.

In Baghdad's heavily Shiite Sadr City neighborhood, an explosion, apparently from a U.S. air attack, killed four people and injured nine others Monday, said Dr. Qasim Sadr, director of Sadr Hospital. The U.S. military said it was unaware of the incident.

Late Sunday, U.S. warplanes and helicopters attacked positions in Najaf's Old City for the second night, witnesses said. Militant leaders said the Imam Ali Shrine com-



A plume of smoke rises Monday over the skyline of Najaf, Iraq. Monday was marked by explosions and gunfire near the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf, as the U.S. military stepped up pressure on the insurgents to quickly hand over the holy site to Shiite religious authorities.

pound's outer walls were damaged in the attacks. The U.S. military said it had fired on sites south of the shrine, from which militants were shooting, and did not hit the compound wall.

An outer wall on the western side of the compound was hit during skirmishes Sunday night, however. A dent about 12 inches deep and 30 inches wide was visible near one of the shrine's four entrances.

Iraqi government officials counseled patience, saying they intended to resolve the crisis without raiding the shrine, one of Shia Islam's holiest sites.

The crisis in Najaf, which has

spread to other Shiite communities, appeared on the verge of resolution Friday, when insurgents agreed to turn over the shrine to representatives of Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Hussein al-Sistani.

But the transfer has bogged down amid quibbling over technicalities.

Worries over the fallout have fueled calls for international action to end the Najaf fighting. Syria's prime minister, Najib al-Otari, in talks with his Jordanian counterpart Monday, warned that instability in Iraq "is about to backfire on neighboring countries" and called for Arabs and Iraq's neighbors to "help it get out of its current ordeal."

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Sudan rejects African Union role in Darfur

BY DANIEL BALINT-KURTI
The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — Sudan rejected a wider role for African peacekeepers in putting down violence and disarming militiamen in the Darfur region, as Sudanese and rebel officials opened peace talks Monday under heavy international pressure to end a solution to the crisis.

The African Union proposed ahead of the talks to send nearly 2,000 peacekeepers to Darfur, where a pro-government militia Arab militia known as the Janjaweed has been accused of killing tens of thousands of black Africans and pushing more than 1.2 million from their homes.

Sudan is under international pressure to rein in and disarm the Janjaweed. The United Nations has given the government until the end of August to start doing so or else face possible economic or diplomatic punishment.

A Sudanese official rejected the African Union proposal, saying only his government was allowed to keep security in the

Alliance offered 2,000 peacekeepers to help rein in Janjaweed militia

sprawling Darfur region.

"Nobody agreed about that (a peacekeeping force). There was an agreement about a force to protect observers," Agriculture Minister Majzoub al-Khalifa Ahmad said. "The security role is the role of the government of Sudan and its security forces."

He said Sudan might consider an expanded African Union role at a later date. "If there's a need, it will be discussed."

His comments appeared to be a setback for the international community's hopes that the African Union could devise an African solution to the 18-month-old conflict that the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis and others say amounts to genocide. More than 150 African Union troops from Rwanda are in Darfur protecting some 80 union members observing a largely ignored cease-fire, and another 150 soldiers from Nigeria are expected to arrive in coming weeks.

The troops are operating under a vague mandate that does not spell out how far they can go to protect targeted civilians.

Rwandan officials have said the troops would protect civilians, and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the current African Union chairman, offered on Sunday to have the soldiers help disarm rebels while the government reins in the militia.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Monday that his government was ready to help finance a greatly enlarged African Union force for Darfur.

"The government of Sudan may need more assistance from the AU, and it's our job to facilitate it," Straw told reporters on a flight to Sudan, where he was to meet with Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir before visiting a relief camp in Darfur during a two-day visit.

The violence in Darfur is rooted in tensions between nomadic Arab tribes and non-Arab Afri-



Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo, center, and Vice President Atiku Abubakar, left, arrive at the Sudanese peace talks on the Darfur crisis in Abuja, Nigeria, on Monday.

can villagers. Two rebel black African rebel groups launched a revolt in February 2003 over which they regard as unjust treatment by the government in their struggle with Arab countrymen.

The Janjaweed then unleashed a ferocious campaign of violence against Darfur's black Africans — who like the Arabs are Muslims — with armed horsemen sweeping into villages, killing and raping.

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Mexico arrests alleged drug kingpin 'legend'

MEXICO CITY — Mexican officials said Monday they have captured a man allegedly involved in shipping nearly half of the drugs moved across the U.S.-Mexico border, the latest in a series of recent high-profile arrests.

Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha said Gilberto Higuera Guerrero was arrested Sunday at a house in Mexicali, across the border from Calexico, Calif. Macedo described Higuera as "a legend" in drug trafficking.

The U.S. State Department last year offered a \$2 million reward for Higuera's capture and \$5 million for his alleged bosses at the time: brother Javier and Eduardo Arellano Felix of Tijuana.

Macedo said Higuera split with the Arellano Felix gang late last year to become the "principal operator" for a rival drug boss. The split led to a series of bloody confrontations between the two gangs in the Tijuana area, Macedo said.

The United States has asked for Higuera's extradition, but Macedo said he would be prosecuted first in Mexico, where he faces nearly a dozen charges of drug trafficking, arms violations and organized crime.

From The Associated Press

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Israel to build more homes in West Bank

Move angers Palestinians

By MARK LAVIE
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel announced plans Monday for more than 500 new housing units in the West Bank, according to an apparent U.S. policy shift on Jewish settlements that has infuriated the Palestinians.

Also Monday, Israeli officials said there would be a one-year delay in construction of a large section of its West Bank barrier, citing a Supreme Court ruling that parts of the structure cause

A Palestinian laborer works Sunday at a construction site of new residences in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Beitar Illit.

too much hardship on the Palestinians.

The barrier and settlement construction are linked to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "disengagement

ment" plan to separate Israel from the Palestinians.

The plan includes a full withdrawal from the Gaza Strip next year and completion of the separation barrier, but simultaneously beefing up large blocs of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Sharon says the moves will boost Israel's security and preserve its Jewish majority.

The United States, which supports the Gaza pullout plan, has signaled recently that it will allow Israel to expand existing West Bank settlements, while remaining opposed to construction in undeveloped areas.

In the past, Washington has objected to all settlement construction.

The Palestinians have said the

shift threatens prospects for peace and demanded a clarification from Washington.

The Palestinians object to all settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, where they hope to establish an independent state.

Israel captured the areas in the 1967 Mideast war.

Today, more than 230,000 settlers live in Jewish settlements, the vast majority of them in the West Bank.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia accused Israel of escalating tensions on Monday, saying, "This will not bring about stability nor will it bring peace."

Afghan lords at odds over cease-fire

By AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful regional Afghan commander accused his rival of violating the spin of a cease-fire Monday, sneaking 2,500 unarmed soldiers into the western city of Herat, then smuggling thousands of weapons in from neighboring Iran.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military reported that coalition personnel sent to Herat province had come under fire from militia on Sunday, and they had detained eight of the fighters. No one was hurt.

Amannullah, a local Pashtun warlord who goes by one name, said Herat Gov. Ismail Khan had brought the men and weapons in as part of preparations for possible renewed fighting.

"Some 6,000 weapons and ammunition were

smuggled in from Iran and brought to Herat city on vegetable trucks," Amannullah told The Associated Press by satellite phone. He called on the central government to stop the smuggling, and condemned Iran for alleged complicity.

Naseer Ahmad Alawi, a spokesman for Khan, rejected the charges as "unfair and untrue." Alawi said some men may have entered the city for a ceremony honoring a senior government official killed earlier this year.

He said national police patrol the border with Iran, making smuggling impossible. Khan has long-running ties to Iran, having lived there in exile during part of the Taliban regime.

Dozens were killed in fighting that broke out earlier this month in Herat between militiamen loyal to the two men. The fighting alarmed Kabul and the United Nations and underscored the need to improve security ahead of landmark elections.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 25)	107.50
S. Korean won (Aug. 24)	1,125.00
Euro	\$1.267
British pound	\$1.86
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.8652
Norway (Krone)	1.3078
Denmark (Krone)	6.0752
Egypt (Pound)	2.7251
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2448
India (Rupee)	17.99
Malaysia (Ringgit)	20.29
United Arab Emirates (Dirham)	1.6365
Israel (Shekel)	4.531
Japan (Yen)	108.83
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	6.075
Philippines (Peso)	55.77
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.6668
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7088
South Africa (Rand)	1.465
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2695
Thailand (Baht)	48.46
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,586.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Military rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign bank rates to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$410.50
Silver	\$6.741

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	1.51
2-year bond	2.68

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Avoid asset bloating

Morningstar.com

Morningstar's fund analysts seem to be talking more and more about asset bloat these days. That's the phenomenon that occurs when funds get so big that the portfolio manager can't put all the money to work using the fund's preferred investment style. Morningstar analysts keep an eye out for bloated funds, and we often call for large funds to close to new investment to prevent degraded performance or style shift.

When analysts look for asset bloat, the first two things we look for are style shift and a growing roster of holdings.

Next on the list would be rising levels of cash in the portfolio.

Often, managers have a tough time putting a fund's entire asset base to work, so they let cash pile up.

Usually this happens for two reasons, sometimes simultaneously: Assets are flowing in quickly and heavily, or management can't find enough of the right types of stocks to buy. Letting cash build up isn't a prob-

lem per se, but in extreme cases, a problem we call "cash stashing" occurs. That's when already large funds remain open, building a big pile of cash. Given that investors pay an expense ratio that covers all assets — not just the invested portion of a fund — cash stashing serves investors poorly in our view.

It's a bit difficult to find a whole roster of funds that suffer from general asset bloat, but it's relatively easy to locate cash stashing. Judging whether a fund has a bloated asset base demands lots of historical information. You can't look simply at current asset size to judge whether a fund has gotten too big.

You've got to examine how a fund has grown and shifted over time. In other words, you have to look at each fund individually.

But cash stashing is a bit easier to spot. You look for big open funds with large cash stakes.

To be really precise, you might look at a specific category and only look for funds that have an asset base twice the average size and an above-average cash stake coupled with above-average expenses.

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COMMISSARY FAST FACTS – August 2004

Additional low-carb products added to many commissaries

An estimated 30-50 million people in the United States are currently living the low-carb lifestyle, vigilantly counting carbohydrate grams listed on the packages of everything they eat. DeCA has responded to this phenomenon by increasing the selection of low-carb products in many stores. Available now in larger commissaries are special low-carb sections that feature reduced-carbohydrate sauces, pastas, baking mixes, breads, salad dressings, breakfast foods and energy bars.

DeCA's Web site provides link to official absentee voter information

Stocking the pantry and democracy: What might these two things have in common? It's more than you might think. The Defense Commissary Agency is working with the Department of Defense to educate uniformed and overseas citizens on absentee voting.

For its part, DeCA has created a link on <http://www.commissaries.com> called Federal Voting Assistance Program. The link is connected to an official DoD site that is packed with helpful information from general to specific, including



topics such as absentee voting, individual state registration requirements and how to apply for an absentee ballot. The information is updated regularly and provides answers to almost any voting-related question 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Web site also contains links to all state election sites, providing information about upcoming elections, and links to official Web sites of U.S. Senators and Representatives. When surfing DeCA's Web site for the latest commissary news, be sure to click the Federal Voting Assistance Program link and check out this valuable resource.

Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic ... and Raisins?

What do raisins have to do with the "three Rs"? They mean a lot for parents who are looking for nutritional back-to-school snacks to fill lunch boxes, stow in school backpacks or have on hand for hungry youngsters after school. Commissaries have these hand-held snacks that fit perfectly into the always-in-motion lifestyle of active youngsters. Some of the more popular back-to-school snack items are fruit cups, breakfast bars, cheese snacks, snack packs, vacuum-packaged drinks, salty snacks, cookies and pudding cups. And don't overlook the produce department! Apples, tangy oranges, juicy peaches, plums, grapes, crispy celery hearts, carrot sticks and other fruits and veggies make great back-to-school or after-school snacks. For the college crowd, commissaries offer shelf-stable microwavable foods, ramen noodles and single-serving size canned products. And when all else fails, rely on the old standby: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Visit DECA at: www.commissaries.com

Bush urges end to independent attack ads

BY PETE YOST
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush denounced TV ads by outside groups attacking both John Kerry and himself on Monday and called for a halt to all such political efforts.

"I think they're bad for the system," he said.

The president made his comments as the Kerry campaign fought back against charges made by an outside group that the Democratic senator had lied about wartime events in Vietnam for which he received five medals.

In a conference call with reporters arranged by Kerry aides, Navy swift boat of-

ficers Rich McCann, Jim Russell and Rich Baker said Kerry acted honorably and bravely and was well qualified to be the nation's commander in chief.

The attack on Kerry's war record has dominated the presidential campaign in the days since Swift Boat Veterans For Truth began airing its commercial in three states.

With polls suggesting Kerry's standing was beginning to slip, the Democrat last week called on Bush to call for the ads to be pulled from the air. He also accused Bush of allowing front groups to "do his dirty work."

Bush's campaign heatedly denied any connection with the anti-Kerry group, and called on the Democratic challenger to join the president in a call for all outside groups to pull their ads.

On Sunday, Kerry accused President Bush of standing silent just as he did four years ago when supporters waged a campaign of "lies" to destroy the White House hopes of fellow Vietnam veteran and senator John McCain.

McCain, R-Ariz., has said the tactics are the same kind used on him and asked the president to denounce them.

Swift Boat Veterans for Truth says Kerry didn't deserve his Purple Hearts, lied to get his Bronze Star and Silver Star, wasn't fighting in neutral Cambodia as he said he was and that he unfairly branded all veterans with his 1971 congressional testimony about atrocities in Vietnam.

"The president... and [political adviser] Karl Rove have flipped back to the

well-worn smear page of their campaign playbook, last used against John McCain in 2000," Kerry's campaign said in a statement Sunday.

A new Kerry campaign ad says Bush smeared McCain four years ago and "Now, he's doing it to John Kerry."

A former Vietnam prisoner of war, McCain lost the South Carolina Republican primary in 2000 after Bush supporters accused him of opposing legislation to help military veterans. McCain never recovered from that primary loss.

Former Sen. Bob Dole, a World War II veteran and 1996 Republican presidential nominee, suggested Kerry apologize for his 1971 testimony to Congress about atrocities U.S. soldiers allegedly committed in Vietnam.

America debates likely effects of new overtime rules

BY LEIGH STROPE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Paychecks could surge or shrink for a few or for millions of workers across the country starting Monday, when sweeping changes to the nation's overtime pay rules took effect.

There is little agreement by the Bush administration, employer groups, labor experts and others on how many workers will gain or lose the right to overtime pay under the new rules in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

"To be candid, no one knows," said Jerry

Hunter, a labor lawyer at Bryan Cave LLP in St. Louis and former general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board during the first Bush administration.

Employers have sought changes for decades, complaining the regulations were ambiguous and out of date, and questioning why highly paid professionals should get overtime pay. Labor unions, however, say the new rules are intended to reduce employers' costs by cutting the number of workers who are eligible for overtime pay.

Estimates of how many workers will lose their overtime eligibility range from 107,000 to 6 million. Workers who could be-

come newly eligible range from very few to 1.3 million.

"Not only is the Labor Department unsure, but a lot of people in a lot of industries are unsure," Hunter said. "This is all very fluid right now."

The major overhaul, the first in more than half a century, is aimed at mostly white-collar workers. The Labor Department says manual laborers and other blue-collar workers will not be affected.

The new rules are intended to limit workers' multimillion-dollar lawsuits, many of them successful, claiming they were cheated out of overtime pay for working more than 40 hours a week.

Whether the new rules will reduce litigation is questionable, experts said.

"This has become a very big area of plaintiffs' employment law, and it is not simply going to go away because of these new regulations," Bill Schurgin, a labor lawyer in the Chicago office of Seyfarth Shaw.

Critics say the changes will eliminate overtime for millions of middle-class Americans.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao has created a task force that will be "looking very closely and critically at any reclassifications that result in workers losing their overtime status," said Steven Law, deputy secretary.

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Senators' intel plan draws wary response

BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Officials reacted warily to a proposal by key Republican senators to transfer the nation's major intelligence gathering from the CIA and Pentagon to control by a new director.

The warmest response, in fact, came from the camp of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. His national security adviser, Rand Beers, welcomed the plan and described it as very similar to Kerry's.

But even Beers said the proposal needed bipartisan support and leadership from President Bush, whom he said was "resisting any real changes."

The White House was less committed about the proposal, announced unexpectedly Sunday by Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"We look forward to reviewing the details of Sen. Roberts' proposal," said White House spokesman Brian Besanceney. "We have taken nothing off the table."

Intelligence officials, speaking anonymously because of political sensitivity, called the plan a step back from greater interagency cooperation. One said that rather than eliminating barriers between agencies, "it smashes them apart."

Roberts offered the most sweeping reorganization proposal by any-



"Disbanding and scattering the Central Intelligence Agency at such a crucial time would be a severe mistake."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller
D-W.Va.



"This proposal reflects a dangerous misunderstanding of the business of intelligence."

George Tenet
Former CIA director

one since the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks called for major changes. He acknowledged that details had yet to be shared with the White House or Senate Democrats.

"We didn't pay attention to turf or agencies or boxes" but rather to "what are the national security threats that face this country today," Roberts said of the proposals supported by eight Republicans on the intelligence committee. "I'm trying to build a consensus around something that's very different and very bold."

But Roberts immediately ran

into resistance. Interviewed with Roberts on Sunday, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said, "It's a mistake to begin with a partisan bill no matter what is in it."

In a statement released Sunday, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, complained that he had yet to see the details. However, he said, "Disbanding and scattering the Central Intelligence Agency at such a crucial time would be a severe mistake."

And former CIA Director George Tenet called the proposal another episode in the "mad rush"

to make changes. "This proposal reflects a dangerous misunderstanding of the business of intelligence," Tenet said Monday.

The Sept. 11 commission called for a new national intelligence director with power to force the nation's many agencies to cooperate. So far, the debate has focused on how much power to give that official, rather than on retooling existing agencies.

Most Democrats support the commission's view that the new director should have authority over hiring and spending by the intelligence agencies. Bush endorsed cre-

ating the position but hasn't said what powers it should have.

Roberts would put the CIA's three main directorates — Operations, which runs intelligence collection and covert actions; Intelligence, which analyzes intelligence reports; and Science and Technology — into three new, separate and renamed agencies, each reporting to a separate assistant national intelligence director.

It also would remove three of the largest intelligence agencies from the Pentagon.

Associated Press writer Katherine Pflieger Shrader contributed to this report.

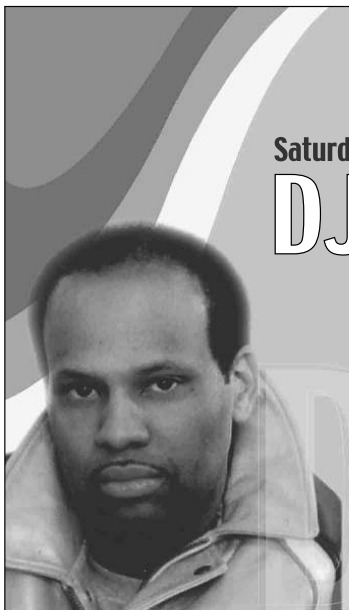
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FACES 'N' PLACES

Mickey Rourke: In love with acting again

BY ROBERTO SANTIAGO
Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI
Mickey Rourke's soul is in Miami. It's home. It's where his family is. It's where he is able to make sense out of life.

And, most importantly, the city is his artistic muse, an emotional oasis allowing the moody, misunderstood method actor to embrace skills neglected after filming 1987's "Barfly."

"I really do love Miami," said Rourke cradling Loki, an 11-year-old miniature whippet and Chihuahua mix. "Miami — you can relax here."

After years of therapy, Rourke said he is close to banishing most of the negative forces that crippled his life and career.

Gone are the hoodlum friends, dysfunctional relationships and bad boy antics that made him a pariah in Hollywood.

And gone are the bad films that went straight to video.

"I have fallen in love with acting again. I care about the craft," Rourke whispered in the same feathery tone immortalized in his modern-day film noir cult classics, "Angel Heart" and "9½ Weeks."



MIAMI HERALD/KIT

After years of therapy, actor Mickey Rourke is rebuilding his career through careful selection of challenging and memorable character roles.

Patient fans who long suffered through the horrible films Rourke made in the 1990s (with the exception of "The Rainmaker") should be pleased to learn that Rourke, in the last four years, has been re-

building his career through a careful selection of memorable and critically-acclaimed character roles.

Although he is still being cast in throw roles, Rourke can play street in a thousand innovative ways.

Steve Buscemi cast Rourke as Jan the Actress in the prison drama, "Animal Factory," where Rourke stole the show as a neurotic, transvestite inmate with a lip.

In Tony Scott's "Man On Fire" Rourke portrays Jordan Calfus, a corrupt attorney who represents the family of a kidnapping victim.

And next year, audiences will see Rourke in what he hopes will be his defining, breakthrough role.

He has the lead in Robert Rodriguez's "Sin City," playing Marv, a moody, disfigured, persecuted, misunderstood thug who loses the love of his life.

Marv seeks vengeance but finds redemption.

Rodriguez is convinced that Marv will help bring Rourke back to the top. Rourke says this is the only role in his 25-year career that he is proud of.

As a method actor, Rourke, whose once-boyish features underwent reconstructive surgery following a 1990s boxing career, relates to Marv's disfigurement,

angst and street code.

In 1990 while making "Wild Orchid" he met the love of his life, co-star Carre Otis, who divorced him several years later. It was a wrenching heartbreak for Rourke, eventually leading him into life and career-saving therapy.

By 1994, Rourke attempted a comeback, but still didn't take his art seriously. He had one amazing performance in 1997 when Francis Ford Coppola cast him as slea-

zy attorney J. Lyman "Bruiser" Stone in "The Rainmaker," but Hollywood didn't care.

He eventually bottomed out, finding himself alone and broke, living in a tiny bungalow above Sunset Strip with several Chihuahuas that he dressed in jumper suits.

But with the new millennium and extensive therapy, Rourke changed.

And Hollywood's new generation of directors noticed.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 417 900) is published daily (except
Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the
Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washing-
ton, DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes,
Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002

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Extend concerns to all people

The recent crash of a Marine helicopter has inflamed the local opposition to the presence of Futema Marine Corps Air Station as well as the presence in general of the U.S. military on Okinawa. I am appalled by the protesters' and the local governments' absolute and utter disregard for the health and well-being of U.S. military personnel involved in such accidents. In several articles on this helicopter crash, I have yet to read any Japanese or Okinawan official express any concern for the crewmembers who were injured, including the one whose status was initially listed as "critically injured."

The U.S. Marines involved are human beings, and it would be best for bilateral relations if the local opposition acted with humane concern regardless of their political bent. Their professed concern for safety and human life should not be solely for local residents.

Andrew Rush

Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

Check TV insurance policy

Regarding the Aug. 13 letter "Before you buy a plasma TV...": Readers should check their policies with companies when shipping household goods home. Sometimes their private insurance companies will offer added coverage for all of their household goods.

Individuals should contact their insurance company directly to find out their exact policies on this, but we have found, in general, they will usually cover replacement costs.

Shannon Holloway

Wiesbaden, Germany

Deployment rule a hardship

A 90-day rotation for activated Guard and Reserve physicians appears to have reduced the hardships these individuals face away from their practices.

Prior to this policy, many practitioners lost their entire business secondary to deployments. For other medical professionals in private practice, however, there is no such policy. There is a federal mandate that employers must hold comparable positions for activated soldiers. The nonphysician private practitioner has no safety net for a shorter rotation or even stationed employment policies.

As a physical therapy private practice owner activated for 545 days to backfill the deployed 67th Combat Support Hospital, I know too well the difficulties facing self-employed practitioners.

To date, I have seen two cycles of physicians come and go on 90-day rotations. I may see four more cycles of physicians returning to their practices, before I, too, experience the uncertainty of my professional business.

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As others look forward to their return to normalcy after deployment, I will brace myself for the impending financial hardship that will await me. As the father of four children, I need to consider the possibility I need to offer them and my wife.

The Army's release from active duty (REFRAD) policy considers such difficult cases. Even with the appearance of being over-strength, with physical therapists coming directly to the footprints and the endorsement of my REFRAD by section and hospital administration, the request was not considered.

Perhaps more consideration needs to be given to cases such as this as well as potential policy changes.

Maj. Matthew G. O'Neil

Wirsburg, Germany

Overseas service has perks

President Bush made public that he plans on having many troops stationed overseas now (i.e., Germany and South Korea) stationed in the United States within a few years.

For many families in the military, this is a blessing. They will be able to stay in the United States and be closer to their families. But I believe that there is a minority, myself included, that did not volunteer to be stationed in the United States.

I remember the notion that I will be able to see the world. That was the beauty of the military, that no matter where you served, you would be able to move on and try something new, find a new place in the world. But now, if President Bush executes his plan, the servicemembers and their families will be confined to military super-cities, in which all they will know is "the military."

The culture and experience these ser-

vicemembers and families, not to mention the loss of cultural relations between countries, will lose are unfathomable. As a servicemember who has served overseas, those years are the ones that I remember most, and it is a sad day when those opportunities will be gone.

Capt. Tad A. Gilbert

Baghdad

Discrimination at movies?

Recently I went to the movies with my two children and a child that I was watching. The movie was rated PG-13 and I was denied entrance because one of the children was not mine. The only policy that was posted was in regard to R-rated movies. I was told that I wanted to take him to the movie, I would need a power of attorney.

This was a very clear act of discrimination because I just can't imagine that it was stupidity, since the manager was backing the claim. Are we as intelligent people, going to make up rules as we go along, or even worse, choose who to let in and who not to. I was further upset by the blatant breaking of a posted rule by the same clerk. It is posted that no person is to be admitted to the theater without a valid identification card. However, a teenage girl in front of me was let in by the same clerk.

It is hard enough being away from having a choice when it comes to the movies, but being discriminated against just takes the cake.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Barti

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

State & Church, hand in hand

Regarding some political issues, I believe I'm a real pragmatic person. Specifically regarding the current issue with gay marriage, here is where I stand: The "State" has an obligation to protect its citizenry. This should be extended to the legal protection of folks who want to commit to one another — regardless of their sexual orientation. Let the Church decide what it wants to marry, thus defining "marriage." Conversely, let the State define a "civil union."

Allowing homosexuals to "marry" would reduce the amount of promiscuity and social diseases, while giving folks the ability to not only protect, but also legally, commit to one another. Given the legal ability to commit to a partner may, in fact, bring folks into the fold of "normal behavior" and allow them to start thinking of themselves as ordinary, thus minimizing the belief by some that they need to act extreme to get attention.

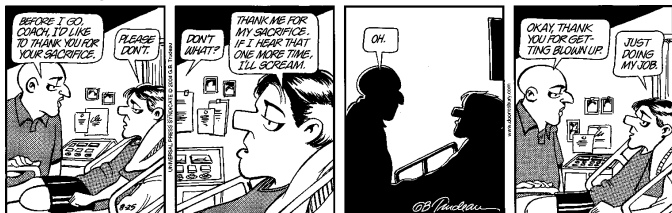
The bottom line is this: The State is a public provision and must be inclusive to all, where as the Church is a private organization and thus can be exclusive.

Staff Sgt. James Baker

Stuttgart, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



GB Trudeau

OPINION

U.S., allies must effect Sudan regime change

BY ERIC REEVES

The horrors in Darfur mark this century's first great venture in genocide, but they are not the first such action perpetrated by the National Islamic Front regime ruling Sudan. That distinction goes to the *ihlad* directed against the various African peoples of the Nuba Mountains beginning in 1992. Genocide began again in the vast oil concessions of southern Sudan in 1998, when the African peoples of the region became targets of a systematic policy of scorched-earth clearances. Many hundreds of thousands were killed or displaced.

Khartoum's genocide in Darfur is both familiar and different. It is, as seasoned Sudan analyst Alex de Waal has argued, "the routine cruelty of a security cabal, its humanity withered by years in power: it is genocide by force of habit." Confronted with a surprising-

ly robust military insurgency in Darfur — growing out of decades of economic marginalization and a near-total breakdown in civilian security — the government in Khartoum instinctively responded by organizing and deploying the Janjaweed Arab militia, which has brutally and systematically destroyed the means of agricultural production throughout Darfur, focusing almost exclusively on African tribal groups. These people now confront "conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction." They face genocide.

No reasonable world order can tolerate a serially genocidal regime that rules only by virtue of ruthless survival. Yet this

is what the United Nations appears prepared to do. A July 30 U.N. Security Council resolution on Darfur was an exercise in legitimizing, veto-wielding China and Russia, as well as Pakistan and Algeria, resisted all meaningful action; both China and Pakistan remained in the final vote, signaling that nothing further will be done when the Security Council takes up Darfur again on Sunday.

In the distorting shadow of the Iraq war, this is an exceedingly difficult moment to argue for "regime change" in Khartoum. But regime change alone can end genocide as the domestic security policy of choice in Sudan. And it is the only thing that can avert the deaths of hundreds of thousands in Darfur. The mismatch between humanitarian need and capacity grows more deadly each day. And Khartoum is strenuously resisting deployment of any peacekeeping force, even from the African Union.

[O]ne consequence of the Iraq war ... is that public discussion of regime change by the United States will resonate much more deeply in Khartoum's despotic thinking.

peace process since Sudan's independence in 1956. The only arguments against regime change are those of realpolitik (the regime is Sudan's de facto government) and practicability (how can Sudan's governance be taken into international receivership?).

But years in power cannot legitimize genocide. This will only encourage regimes like Khartoum's to believe they are invulnerable and act accordingly. Even from the realpolitik perspective, accept-



tance of rule by those who commit genocide is counterproductive to regional and world order; it also offers encouragement to other regimes tempted to use genocide as a political weapon.

To the second objection — how will it be done? — there are certainly no easy answers. But one consequence of the Iraq war (though of course not a justification in itself) is that public discussion of regime change by the United States will resonate much more deeply in Khartoum's despotic thinking. If it is coupled with serious efforts to work with our European allies to squeeze Khartoum by means of comprehensive economic sanctions, as well as sanctions targeted against NIF leaders, we may first be able to secure a permissive environment for humanitarian intervention in Darfur, saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

If regime change is not to be chaotic, it must be organized by a consortium of international actors, including regional governments; efforts must be made to reach out to all opposition parties throughout the country and in exile. A proportionately representative interim governing council must be created externally but be ready to move quickly to take control when the NIF is removed by whatever means are necessary. The great risk is an implant of the military that sustains NIF power, but this risk is as great without any effort of regime change.

The challenges adumbrated here are daunting and politically risky. The consequences of failing to accept these challenges are continuation of genocidal rule and additional hundreds of thousands of deaths.

Eric Reeves is a professor at Smith College. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

What matters most, life savings or saving lives?

BY FRANK J. GAFFNEY JR.

For the first time since Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have a chance to do something that millions of us have yearned to do: help win the war on terror.

Millions of people who invest in public pension plans can act to deny upward of \$70 billion to nations that finance, train, arm and otherwise sponsor terrorist enemies of the United States. The Center for Security Policy, in a report titled "Terrorist Investment of the 50 States" (www.DiversTerror.org), identifies where much of this money goes and through which companies.

There can be little doubt about the effect of keeping such immense sums out of the hands of the Iranian, Libyan, Syrian, North Korean and Sudanese regimes. They would have less money to fund their terrorist allies, less money to buy or build weapons of mass destruction, less money to threaten U.S. interests and allies. It might even precipitate the sort of cash-flow crisis that ultimately destroyed the Soviet Union — catalyzing regime changes where they would do the most good without firing a shot.

How could American investors help bring about these sorts of desirable outcomes? The same way they helped cause an end two decades ago to apartheid in South Africa — divesting stock where it counted.

This time, there are roughly 400 companies that could be targeted for doing business with terrorist-sponsoring regimes. The new report shows that the leading American

public pension funds alone have invested about \$200 billion in such companies, representing on average 15 percent to 23 percent of their respective portfolios. The largest, the California Public Employee Retirement System, has about \$18 billion invested in 201 such companies.

In a recent letter to the heads of the top 100 American public pension funds and the state officials responsible for them, Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-N.J., called the business ties these firms are doing with state sponsors of terror "unconscionable."

The good news is that subscribers to

American public pension plans and other institutional and private investors have real leverage. They can demand that their money be invested only with companies that choose not to do business with hostile governments — through shareholder resolutions, for instance. Should even one of this country's large public pension funds divest in this fashion, an unmistakable signal would be sent to companies the world over: You can enjoy the benefits of being highly regarded in the American capital market or you can do business with those who sponsor our terrorist foes.

The bad news is that so far almost none of

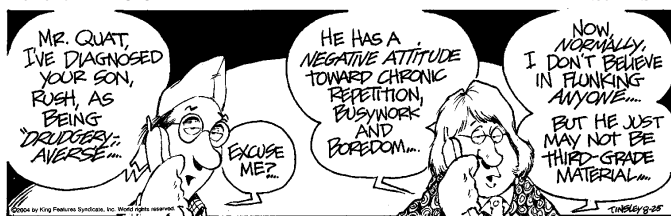
the 87 public pension systems in the center's study appear to be even interested in acquiring data about which companies in their portfolios have business activities in these rogue states. Worst of all, those with fiduciary responsibility for these funds continue investing heavily in companies partnered with governments helping U.S. enemies.

This situation should be intolerable to all Americans. Correcting it clearly should be part of a comprehensive strategy for winning the war on terror. Investors must see their part.

Frank J. Gaffney Jr. is president of the Center for Security Policy in Washington, D.C. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Dog mauled to death

ME WALES — No one knows for sure what creature it was that crept out of the darkness behind Leo Michaud's home and attacked his 16-year-old Doberman pinscher, ripping her head open.

The Doberman, named Dutchess, had to be put down after the mauling.

That day, Michaud found a den near Dutchess' doghouse that he believes was home to her attacker.

"It looked like a wolverine," he said.

Experts, however, say that's unlikely. Wolverines are known to thrive in Canada, but not Maine. And while they are known to scarp with larger animals, a wolverine going toe-to-toe with a Doberman would be extremely unusual.

Maj. Thomas Santaguida of the Maine Warden Service is almost certain the animal that killed Dutchess was not a wolverine. His prime suspect is a smaller but even nastier creature common in the Maine woods: the fisher.

Still, Michaud is nervous. He said something vicious may be living behind his mobile home just off Route 126.

More tourists get sick

OH PUT-IN-BAY — Health officials said they have confirmed more than 100 additional cases of an illness that's causing cramps, diarrhea, nausea, fever and chills among visitors to this resort area.

The number of people suffering from the gastrointestinal illness has risen to 510, up from 378 documented cases, Ohio Department of Health spokesman Jay Carey said. Interviews with 168 more people are pending, he said.

Investigators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are helping county and state officials in their attempt to pinpoint the cause of the illness on Lake Erie's South Bass Island, sometimes called the "Key West of the Midwest."

The Ohio Department of Health has confirmed cases of salmonella, norovirus and campylobacter among the victims, said spokesman Christopher Weiss.

All three germs have symptoms that match the outbreak.

Campylobacter is one of the most common bacterial causes of diarrhea and is usually caused by eating or handling undercooked or raw chicken, according to the CDC.

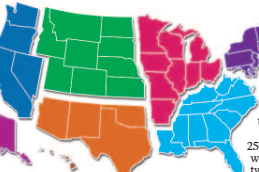
Spruce goes to D.C.

VA RICHMOND — A 65-foot red spruce will be felled in the George Washington National Forest to rise again as the holiday tree at the U.S. Capitol.

Matthew Evans, landscape architect for the Capitol, selected the spruce from Highland County as the first Virginia tree to grace the Capitol lawn.

Evans said the sturdy tree will be required to shoulder about 10,000 lights and 5,000 oversized ornaments crafted by the state's schoolchildren.

A massive tree has stood in front of the Capitol each Christmas since 1964.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Last year's tree was cut in Idaho, and the previous year's in Oregon.

The Virginia tree's current location is being kept secret to thwart potential poachers. It will be cut in November.

On Dec. 6, the tree is due to arrive in Washington.

Inmate had tuberculosis

MO KANSAS CITY — An inmate passed through three county jails and a state prison before officials diagnosed him with tuberculosis, possibly infecting nearly 50 other people, according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At least 47 people who had contact with the infected prisoner in 2002 tested positive for the disease, the report said.

Officials cannot confirm that those who tested positive were infected by the inmate, but they are using the case to urge states to adopt tighter controls on sick prisoners.

In January 2002, the 36-year-old man turned himself in on a warrant. He spent three days in one jail and seven weeks in a second jail, where medical personnel diagnosed his condition as asthma.

He got out of jail in March 2002 but was arrested again in June and bounced between two jails, neither

of which looked into his condition.

In August 2002, he was sent to the state prison, where he spent at least six weeks among the general population before medical personnel determined he suffered from tuberculosis.

Officials said they tested 256 people, finding 47 infected with the disease, including two inmates who shared a cell with the infected man.

Tuberculosis, at one time a virtual death sentence, is now easily treated with a six- to nine-month regimen of medicines.

Senior survives heat

TX LUFKIN — An 89-year-old woman fell outside her house while trying to set out her trash and apparently survived three days of heat — not to mention thunderstorms one day — before neighbors found her lying in the grass, police said.

"She's a pretty tough lady to withstand all that," police Lt. Mike Shapaka said.

Percy Lee Mantooth, covered with fire ants, was conscious when emergency responders arrived at the home, the Lufkin Daily News reported.

An accumulation of four newspapers on Mantooth's driveway prompted neighbors Charlie and Marie Harber to check on her.

The Harbers said they were upset that they didn't notice sooner that something was awry.

"She's very independent," Marie Harber said of her neighbor.

"She's told us before, 'If I need you, I'll call.'"

5-year-old boy shot

NY NEW YORK — Nine people, including a 5-year-old boy, were wounded when gunfire erupted in the Bronx, police said.

All of the victims were in stable condition.

The shooting happened on Adece Avenue in the Allerton section. Eight people were taken to Jacobi Medical Center in stable condition, police said. A ninth victim, a 5-year-old boy, was taken by private means to Montefiore Medical Center in stable condition.

No arrests had been made.

Weapons confiscated

FL MIAMI — Boxes of guns fell from the false ceiling of a storage unit, crashed into a toilet and ruptured a water pipe, leading authorities to uncover an alleged plot to sell the weapons to arm opposing sides in Colombia's civil war.

Five defendants from Miami-Dade County pleaded innocent to charges of firearms sales and exports to Venezuela, where prosecutors say the weapons were to be sold to left-wing Colombian rebels and right-wing paramilitary groups. A sixth defendant, from Homestead, is a fugitive.

Investigators confiscated 55 firearms, including 20 automatic guns, 19 rifles and nine handguns, from the storage unit. They also seized more than 206,000 rounds of ammunition.

Authorities say the motive of the alleged conspiracy was profits, not politics. If convicted, each defendant could face at least 10 years in prison.



Whoa there!

Three-year-old Vaughn Betancourt of Manassas, Va., tries to keep a hold of his Great Dane,

Jake, at the end of a dog contest at the Prince William County Fair.



Melon mania

Kindergartner Anna Gaiche munches on water-melon during a back-to-school event at her school in Olathe, Kan.

Kindergartner Anna Gaiche munches on water-melon during a back-to-school event at her

school in Olathe, Kan.



Back to school

Kids return to class after lunch break on the first day of school at Coral Glades High School in Coral Springs, Fla.



Offroading

Ronald Warren, 12, of Bremerton, Wash., cools off after football practice by riding his bike into the cool waters at the boat ramp at Lions Park.



Family outing

An Amish family walks hand in hand across the street to attend the morning events at the annual Intercourse, Pa., Community Days Celebration. Food, music and an auction highlight the days activities in rural Lancaster County.



Snapshot of history

Fair in Louisville, Ky.

Lynda Jackson of Morganfield, Ky., makes a picture of the head from a statue of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein at the Kentucky State

Man gets time for murder

PA YORK — A man convicted of killing his girlfriend and telling police it was a suicide was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in state prison.

James H. Winter, 42, was given the maximum sentence by President Judge John H. Chronister of York Common Pleas Court.

Winter had pleaded guilty in May to third-degree murder.

Police found Susan Leaf, 46, lying on her back on the living room couch, a 9mm semiautomatic handgun leaning against her left upper arm and a bullet wound to the upper right side of her head. Winter told investigators he stepped out of the room to fix himself a drink and heard a gunshot.

But forensic testing revealed gunpowder residue on Winter's T-shirt and shorts, and he later told police he drank almost a fifth of rum before killing Leaf and setting the scene as a suicide.

First Assistant District Attorney Timothy Barker said Leaf's family concurred with the plea agreement.

Police chief does good

TX DALLAS — New Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle may spend a lot of time in meetings, but he still knows how to work the streets.

A Dallas school district employee saw a district truck being stolen and flagged down a uniformed police officer for help. The officer was Kunkle, who said he routinely drives through neighborhoods to get a sense of what's going on.

Kunkle radioed for marked patrol cars, which followed the stolen truck to a grocery store parking lot, where the unidentified female driver was captured.

Kunkle, who took the helm of the 2,900-member department in June, said he didn't give chase because department policy restricts the use of unmarked vehicles in police pursuits.

"The officers did a great job," Kunkle told The Dallas Morning News. "They managed the pursuit well. The arrest was handled professionally. It was really impressive to watch how they did their work."

Man blamed for crash

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man was to blame when he ran a red light and hit a Berkeley, Calif., police motorcycle officer who had been struck once before, authorities said.

On June 2, the 54-year-old Danville man ran a light and hit Officer Ben Cardozo, the California Highway Patrol said. The officer was not seriously injured.

The motorist likely will not be cited because the CHP did not witness the crash, said a CHP spokeswoman.

52 arrested in drug bust

FL TAMPA — Police arrested 52 people in a drug bust in which cocaine was transported aboard Carnival cruise ships from Jamaica to New Orleans and then driven to Tampa, police said.

An investigation that began with a \$10 crack cocaine deal turned into this city's largest drug bust, po-

lice said.

Police made the arrests after raiding a public housing community. Officers found guns, drugs and cash, police said.

The drugs were shipped from Honduras to Jamaica before being taken aboard the cruise ships, police said.

Tampa police Maj. George McNamara said the suspected kingpin was responsible for delivering about \$500,000 worth of crack cocaine to street-level dealers every month. He was one of the people arrested.

McNamara said officials have evidence including video surveillance showing the suspects selling drugs to undercover officers.

Carnival said it is cooperating with the investigation.

Couple let dog attack kids

OR HILLSBORO — A couple face at least three years in prison for disciplining their young children by letting their part-pit bull dog attack them.

Joyce Hoskins, 47, and David Hoskins, 46, pleaded guilty to three counts each of assault and were being held without bail.

Investigators said the couple disciplined their 8-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son by allowing their dog, Nigel — a mix of pit bull terrier, Doberman pinscher, German shepherd and Labrador retriever — to attack them.

The attacks took place over two years and both children suffered bites that required treatment, investigators said. The children are now in foster homes and the dog has been euthanized.

Judge Marco Hernandez said he would sentence Joyce Hoskins to no more than three years, two months because she has limited mental capacities. Deputy District Attorney Andrew Erwin said he would argue for a longer sentence for David Hoskins.

Sentencing was set for Sept. 23.

Boulder kills young boy

VA APPALACHIA — State mining officials are investigating the death of a 3-year-old boy who was crushed when a half-ton boulder crashed through his bedroom wall as he slept.

The boulder rumbled into Jeremy Kyle Davidson's house, crushing the child, then continuing into his brother's bedroom, the Wise County Sheriff's Office said.

Jeremy's brother was not injured.

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy ruled out blasting by a mining company, A&G Coal Corp., for loosening the boulder. The company is building a road near a strip mine in this Jefferson National Forest community.

Mining investigators and sheriff's deputies blocked off the area and evacuated two other homes until the company could remove any loose rocks or other material that remained. Residents were allowed to return to their homes.

The sheriff's office referred questions to Mike Abbe, spokesman for the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, who could not immediately be reached.

An investigation is expected to continue.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The key to success during a Capricorn moon is to make sure you're going through the proper channels. This transit is all about respect, tradition and status. Social groups are like delicate systems. There is a hierarchy in every set, no matter how egalitarian the group claims to be. Observe social interaction until you understand how things work.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 25). Love is at the top of your list this year, and you'll receive the selfless care and adoration you project onto others. You're also quite bold this year. You feel free to experiment with your life and try on a new job, location or image in the next three months. By November, you will have completed a transformation. Love signs are Taurus and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



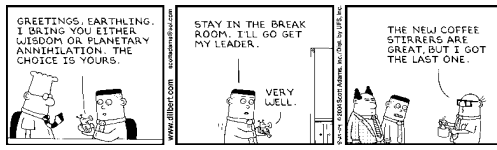
Spider Man



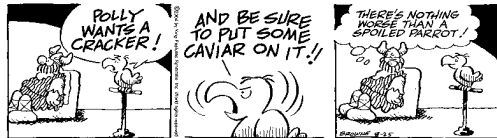
Blondie



Dilbert



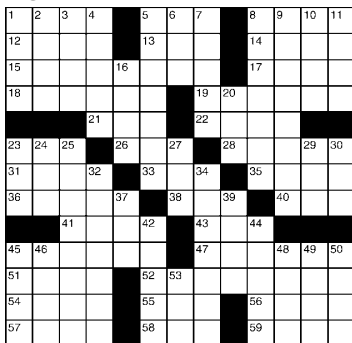
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Scandinavian metropolis

5 Answer, on "Jeopardy!"

8 Bridge coup

12 Detail

13 Born

14 Forum wear

15 Capt. Stubing's craft

17 Square

18 Tap

19 Idle co-worker?

21 Blond shade

22 Hula hoop support

23 Home-making tool

26 Raining to go

28 Beg

31 Have a gander at

33 Bad hairpiece

35 Rain gutter location

36 Horizontal

38 Shapeshifter?

40 Kayo count

41 Spuds' buds

43 Autumnal abbr.

45 Sarajevo is there

47 Responsibilities

51 Hodgepodge

52 Trysting place

54 Denomination

55 "All the Things You —"

56 Relaxation

57 Miss Daisy's driver

58 June honoree

Down

1 Rembrandt creations

2 Pull the plug on

3 Jeansmaker

4 The end

5 One more

6 Vast expanse

7 Sailing vessel

8 Church tower

9 Sofa for two

10 Shakespearian septet

11 Lion's pride?

16 Corner-office occupant

20 Back talk

23 The whole enchilada

24 Travail

25 Languishing

27 Soaking spot

29 "Hail, Caesar!"

30 Hideaway

32 Fundamental idea

34 Striated

37 Muumuu accessory

39 Dermatology subject

42 Dieter's lunch

44 Adjusted the radio knob

45 "Poppycock!"

46 Bread spread

48 Burn a bit

49 Start of North Carolina's motto

50 Brunswick, e.g.

53 Man-mouse link

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-25

CRYPTOQUIP

SK ETN TKJAI VSMQYPBA
ETNX QNIBJNPJSTI
VPXHM, S JCSIH JCPJ

BTNYG ZA ZPG BTVP.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I MET WITH AND TALKED TO A BABY WILDEBEEST TODAY. YOU MIGHT SAY I KNEW A NEW GNU.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals O

Eagles turning to RB Levens

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Free agent running back Dorsey Levens will return to the Philadelphia Eagles and replace the injured Correll Buckhalter, the player's agent said Sunday.

"It's an opportunity to play, and it's a situation where he knows the offense and has an opportunity to win a Super Bowl," agent Hadley Engelhard said.

The Eagles declined comment.

Buckhalter tore a tendon in his right knee in Friday's exhibition game against Baltimore and faces surgery that will end his season.

Levens, 34, spent his first eight seasons with the Green Bay Packers before joining the Eagles in 2002 when Buckhalter was in need for the season with a knee injury.

Ravens' Flynn sidelined by a broken collarbone

The Associated Press

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Baltimore Ravens center Mike Flynn broke his right collarbone Monday and is expected to be out 6-8 weeks.

Flynn had missed just one start to injury since becoming a full-time starter in 2000. He was one of eight Ravens to start all 16 regular-season games last year and was part of the line that assisted running back Jamal Lewis' AFC-record 2,066-yard rushing season.

Fourth-year guard Casey Rabach is expected to take over for Flynn. Rabach has played in 26 games and started seven in his first three seasons. One of his starts was at center in a 22-20 loss at Indianapolis.

The only other center currently on the roster is rookie Lenny Vandermaede, the starting left guard for Southern California's national championship team. The Ravens are already missing their top starting defensive ends, Marques Douglas and Anthony Weaver.

Seahawks' Brown breaks leg

CHENY, Wash. — Seattle Seahawks' center Chris Brown, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, broke his left leg during practice on Monday.

Coach Mike Holmgren said doctors believe Brown likely will miss the first four games of the regular season. Holmgren said



Brown broke the bone after his feet became entangled with tight end Itula Mili during a passing drill.

Brown, 34, is entering his eighth season with the Seahawks after being signed in 1997 as a free agent from Pittsburgh. Brown ranks fifth in Seahawks' history with 707 tackles and sixth in sacks with 47.

Holmgren said the Seahawks have no plans to trade for a line-backer. He reserved D.D. Lewis, listed as the backup at both outside line-backer positions, has been held out of contact drills while recovering from shoulder surgery during the offseason.

Bills' Henry misses practice

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills running back Travis Henry was held out of practice Monday as he recovers from bruised ribs.

The Bills were expected to provide an update on Henry's status after practice. Henry was hurt in the second quarter of Buffalo's 16-15 exhibition loss to Tennessee on Saturday.

X-rays were negative and Henry said afterward that he didn't think the injury was serious. The Bills' next exhibition game is Saturday at Indianapolis.

Punter Brian Moorman also didn't practice. He missed Saturday's game with a strained left hamstring. Backup offensive lineman Marcus Price was also held out of practice. Price missed all of last week with a broken toe on his left foot.

Cramps sideline Giants duo

ALBANY, N.Y. — Offensive tackle David Diehl gave the New York Giants a scare on Monday when he was taken off the field in the afternoon practice after grabbing the back of his right knee. It turned out to be cramps, which also sidelined free agent defensive lineman Khaleel Vaughn.

Quarterback Jesse Palmer did not practice Monday because of an abdominal strain.

Pro Bowl tight end Jeremy Shockey was with at the practice. He was in the trainer's room getting treatment for a mild hamstring injury suffered Saturday.

Cowboys cut four players

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys released four players on Monday, cutting their roster to 78.

Cut were line-backer Jamal Brooks, offensive lineman DeMingo Graham, receiver Brandon Middleton and defensive tackle Cedric Hildner.

The Cowboys have to cut their roster to 65 by Aug. 31, a day before the exhibition game against Tennessee.

Sporting Goods 980

Kadenes, China — 3-Ball golf for sale. Two 72" and 30" 100-5000. Call Mike 813-512-1100.

Kadenes, China — Cross Trainer 5000. It's new and still in original box. Great for your home gym. 6 coasted 3000. Will sell for \$600 to reduce weight for PCS move. Call 813-512-1100.

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Jobs Offered

630

Sporting Goods 980

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Miscellaneous 1040

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Franchitti wins Pikes Peak race

The Associated Press

FOUNTAIN, Colo. — Dario Franchitti shook off a potentially dangerous pit mishap and led the last 63 laps to win the Indy Honda 225 at Pikes Peak International Raceway.

Franchitti, who held the lead four times for 128 laps, went into the pits on lap 85 for four new tires and fuel. As he started to pull out, fuel man Mike Miller had trouble getting the hole disconnected from the car and was clipped by the rear tire.

Miller wound up with a twisted knee and Franchitti lost about 10 seconds, allowing three drivers to pass him. But what could have been the difference in the race turned out to be just a speed bump for Franchitti.

The Scottish driver took advantage of a yellow flag for debris on lap 120, caught up to the leaders and passed Sam Hornish Jr. 12 laps later. Adrian Fernandez stayed close for about 35 laps before Franchitti started pulling away after another caution.

Franchitti took the checkered flag 2:24.29 seconds ahead of Fernandez.

Cink plays like a million bucks

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Stewart Cink closed with an even-par 70 to beat Tiger Woods and Rory Sabbatini for four strokes Sunday in the U.S. Invitational, becoming the first wire-to-wire winner on the PGA Tour this year.

Cink made a 15-foot birdie putt on 18 to finish at 11-under 269. He earned \$1.2 million, the largest payoff of his career.

Sabbatini made a 20-foot birdie putt on the 14th hole to get within two shots, but bogeyed two of the next three holes and shot 68.

Woods finished with a rare birdie for a 69, and continued his streak to never finishing worse than fifth at Firestone.

He also will keep his No. 1 ranking for another week — the 263rd in a row — after Vijay Singh shot a 70 to tie for 32nd and Ernie Els closed with a 72 and tied for 65th.

Last Monday, Cink was a captain's pick to the Ryder Cup team.

Rookie Taylor earns first title

RENO, Nev. — Rookie Vaughn Taylor claimed his first PGA Tour victory, rolling in an 11-foot

birdie putt on the first extra hole to win a four-way playoff in the Reno-Tahoe Open.

Taylor made a 14-foot birdie putt on the last hole of regulation for a 3-over 75 and tied hometown favorite Scott McCarron (71), rookie Hunter Mahan (74) and Australia's Steve Allan (74) at 10-under 278.

In the 14-hole playoff, McCarron missed a 14-foot birdie putt and Mahan failed to convert from 16 feet. Allan's approach to the 429-yard, par-4 18th was short.

More outdoor lists for U.S. Amateur title

MAMARONECK, N.Y. — Ryan Moore won the last four holes to beat Luke List 2-up in the 36-hole final of the U.S. Amateur at Winged Foot Golf Club.

Moore birdied Nos. 15, 17 and 18 to win his fourth prestigious amateur title in the event of the year. The UNLV senior also won the NCAA, Western Amateur and the U.S. Amateur Public Links.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



USA's Mia Hamm, right, goes for the ball against Germany's Renate Lingor during their semifinal match Monday. The U.S. won, 2-1.

U.S. upsets World champs

Win in OT gives vets shot to cap careers with gold

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

IRAKLON, Greece — The only teenager on the U.S. women's soccer team gave the old vets a chance to leave with one last goal.

Minutes after missing a wide open net, Heather O'Reilly scored in the ninth minute of overtime Monday to give the United States a 2-1 victory over World Cup champion Germany and a place in Thursday's gold-medal game.

Mia Hamm set up the goal with a short cross from the right, pushing back the pass toward a cluster of three players about 6 yards from the net. The 19-year-old O'Reilly, a freshman at North Carolina, somehow got her foot on the ball before defender Ariane Hingst did, pushing a shot to left of goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg.

The win gives the Fab Five — long-standing U.S. stars Hamm, Julie Foudy, Joy Fawcett, Brandi Chastain and Kristine Lilly — a chance to go out as champions in their final tournament together.

The U.S. team will face either Brazil or Sweden, who played later Monday in Patras, for the Olympic title Thursday in Athens.

Germany will play in the bronze medal game on the same day.

The victory averages a 3-0 loss to Germany in the World Cup semifinals 11 months ago in Portland, Ore. Germany went on to win the Cup and entered the Olympics ranked No. 1 in the world.

The Americans were unlucky that the game even went to overtime.

They dominated Germany most of the match, and the Germans' tying goal came on a shot from Isabell

Bachor that deflected off Fawcett's hip two minutes into second-half injury time.

Then, in overtime, O'Reilly had an open net in front of her after getting past Rottenberg at the top of the penalty box, but she rushed her shot and hit the near post. O'Reilly nearly scored again in the second overtime after a long run with a shot that forced a juggling save by Rottenberg.

Lilly scored her 98th career goal in the 33rd minute — her third goal in as many games — and the U.S. defense didn't allow a shot on goal until the 77th minute. Birgit Prinz, the reigning world player of the year, was essentially neutralized.

Bachor sent the game to overtime by setting up her shot with a move that twisted defender Christie Rampone to the ground. Bachor's 11-yard drive hit Fawcett in the hip, leaving goalkeeper Briana Scurry helpless as the ball landed inside the near post. It was only the second shot on goal for Germany in the match.

Lilly's first-half goal capped a strong, 10-minute stretch for the Americans. Chastain dribbled a cross from the left wing, and Abby Wambach used her strength to fight off Hingst and flick the ball ahead to Lilly. Lilly's shot hit the hand of the veteran Rottenberg, who was leaning just slightly the wrong way, before settling inside the far corner of the net.

In the second half, Scurry made her first save in the 77th minute, falling to the ground to stop Renate Lingor's long free kick.

Play was very physical in a game that included three yellow cards, including Germany's first of the tournament. Hamm, Wambach and Prinz were especially targeted with pushes, shoves and nudges that sent them tumbling to the turf. Foudy was taken off in the 61st minute, after getting spiked in the foot.

American women earn two medals in wrestling debut

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Sara McMann couldn't hold an early lead in her 138½ pounds (63kg) gold medal match with world champion Kaori Icho of Japan and lost 3-2 Monday, meaning the United States exited the debut of Olympic women's wrestling without any golds.

The Americans, who had four world silver medals last year, came away with only two medals: McMann's silver and Patricia Miranda's bronze at 105½ pounds (48kg).

It was the second difficult loss to Icho in less than a year for McMann, who also lost 4-3 to her in overtime during last year's world finals. This defeat was tougher still; McMann looked disconsolate during the medal ceremony, though she hugged Icho before leaving the medals stand.

McMann, who wrestled on the Lock Haven University men's team and has the upper body strength to rival many male wrestlers in her weight class, got off to a great start, taking Icho down twice for a 2-0 lead after the first of the three-minute periods.

But Icho, the sister of 105½ pounds (48kg) silver medalist Chiharu Icho, made sure McMann couldn't rely on her superior upper body strength in the second period.

She scurried away during any McMann attempt to lock her up, instead using her speed and quickness to trip up McMann several times, taking her down three times — with the last and decisive point coming with 23 seconds remaining.

It was the second gold of the night for Japan, which was stunned by the semifinal loss of five-time world champion Kyoko Hamaguchi to 18-year-old Wang Xu of China in the 158½ pounds (72kg) semifinals. World champion Saori Yoshida came through



Angelique Berthelot from France, up, and Patricia Miranda from the USA wrestle during the freestyle 48kg wrestling bronze medal match. Miranda won the bronze medal.

to take the gold at 121 pounds (55kg) by beating Tonya Verbeek of Canada 6-0.

Japan's large cheering section reacted with boos and disbelief and Greek police spent several minutes restraining Hamaguchi's angry father, former pro wrestler Heigo "The Animal" Hamaguchi, when he appeared ready to jump out of the stands during his daughter's disputed loss.

Chiharu Icho lost in the 105½ pound finals to defending world champion Irina Merleni of Ukraine on a tiebreaker after the two tied 2-2 through nine minutes. Merleni needed the final by beating Miranda 9-0 in a one-sided semifinal in which the Ukraine wrestler opened a 4-0 lead with only 30 seconds gone.

Miranda bounced back to beat Angelique Berthelot of France 12-4 for the bronze, after trailing 4-1 early.

"The only thing I know is, I'm leaving here after giving it my all," Miranda said. "I didn't care if I lost as long as I gave everything I had."

Golden: Players honored coach's wife in Games

GOLDEN, FROM BACK PAGE

She rode the buses with the All-American girls, went for coffee with them and provided companionship on the road while they chased their dream of Greek gold.

The players honored Sue Candrea by wearing "SC" decals on their batting helmets and wristbands. She was always in their hearts.

Until the final with Australia, the Americans' stiffest test — and only test — came in the preliminary round against Japan, the bronze medalist which forced the United States into extra innings and the excruciating international tiebreaker.

In the eighth inning of that game, the Americans caught a break when third baseman Reika Utsumi lost an easy pop up in the sun, giving the United States an extra out that seemed heaven sent.

"Sue was looking down upon us," Candrea said at the time.

She was in their thoughts as they celebrated the medal.

After sharing hugs with his coaching staff, Candrea walked onto the field to join his players. The first to meet him was Leah O'Brien-Amico, the only mother on the 15-woman roster, who broke down her arms around her Olympic and college coach.

Moments later, the entire U.S. team surrounded Candrea and lifted him into the air.

"It's been definitely an emotional thing for coach and it's definitely an emotional thing for the team," Bustos said. "Sue was with us the whole way."

As happened in their first eight games, the ball bounced the U.S. team's way. That wasn't how it went four years ago in Sydney, when the Americans had rallied after losing three straight games just to make the medal round.

They won gold, but it wasn't easy. This was.

Even when an opposing batter hit a ball hard, it seemed to find a U.S. glove. In the third, Kerry Wyborn knocked one only to have it rocketed by Fernandez, who simply flicked her wrist and stared at the yellow ball.

Bustos hit a two-run homer in the first and added solo shot on Harding's first pitch of the third, a towering shot over the left-field wall that landed 320 feet away in the end next to one of the old runway strips at Hellenikon Airport.

One out later, Stacey Nuveman homered off Harding, who was lifted by coach Simon Roskvist.

After giving up the ball and walking to the dugout, Harding laughed about what had just happened — another pitcher overwhelmed by the U.S. team's might.

Harding, the only pitcher ever to beat the United States twice in Olympic play, came into the game 4-0 with four shutouts over 33 innings in the tournament.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

American men close out pool play with easy rout

Duncan scores 15 against overmatched Angola

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Tim Duncan caught a pass in the opening moments of the first quarter and found just one defender, not two, guarding him.

It was the first time in the Athens Olympics he had seen such sight, and Duncan gladly took advantage by dropping in a shot.

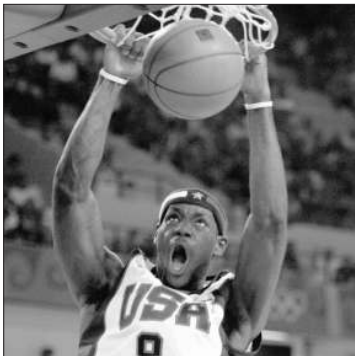
The rest of the Americans got a taste of what it was like in the good of days, too, finally playing an opponent they were able to beat easily as they routed Angola 89-53 Monday in their final game of the preliminary round.

"This was a fun game because we got to play a lot of people," coach Larry Brown said. "In the tournament thus far it's been hard giving guys a lot of minutes, but tonight we had an opportunity to do that and everybody played well."

Duncan finished with a team-high 15 points in just 13 minutes, and the Americans dominated the boards Barcelona-style with a 52-17 edge in rebounding as NBA Commissioner David Stern watched from a seat 10 rows behind the American bench.

The Americans had to wait until Greece defeated Puerto Rico 78-58 in Monday's final game to learn they were the opponent, the unbeaten Spanish (5-0). "The records are out the door and it's the best team that comes to play," LeBron James said. "It's win three games and get the gold. If our best team shows up, we can win the gold."

Angola had played well in two of its four losses, falling by just five points to Lithuania and three to Puerto Rico. But it was thoroughly outclassed this time by an American team that had yet to experience a blowout — except in defeat.



Team USA's LeBron James dunks against Angola during Monday's preliminary round game in Athens. The U.S., which went 3-2 in pool play, plays Spain, Greece or Italy in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

"All in all, we feel pretty good about this thing," Duncan said. "We're pretty excited about our opportunity and we like where we sit."

The Americans grabbed 28 of the first 32 rebounds, made their first two three-point shots and then broke out their high-light-reel material to finish the preliminary round at 3-2, including losses to Puerto Rico and Lithuania.

Rather than going with the type of tight 2-3 zone all the Americans' previous opponents used, Angola (0-5) employed a matchup

zone that left Duncan in single coverage. Duncan and Allen Iverson scored the first 13 U.S. points, and the Americans had a 16-2 edge in rebounding as they ended the first quarter with a 23-14 lead. "We kind of expected them to play man-to-man, but I didn't think it would happen," Duncan said. "They came out in it, and we just wanted to be aggressive against it and jump on them early."

The U.S. team went 3-for-6 from three-point range and 33-for-60 (55 percent) overall.

The Americans planned to take a day off Tuesday before returning to practice Wednesday.

Russian shot putter stripped of gold medal

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Russia's Irina Korzhanenko was stripped of her shot put gold medal Monday, the first athlete of the Athens Games to lose an Olympic title because of doping.

Korzhanenko, the first woman to win a gold medal at the sacred site of Ancient Olympia, tested positive for the steroid stanozolol after Wednesday's competition. The backup sample confirmed the initial finding.

The International Olympic Committee executive board expelled Korzhanenko from the Games and ordered the Russian Olympic Committee to return the medal.

The gold goes to Cuba's

Yumileidi Cumba Jay. Germany's Nadine Kleinert moves up to silver, and Russia's Svetlana Krivelyova to bronze.

"I am surprised because we did everything to avoid such circumstances," said Nikolai Durnanov, head of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency. "Irina is in the Olympic Village and she is totally dismayed," he said. "We are talking to her, trying to find the reasons why it all happened."

Korzhanenko, who served a previous two-year drug suspension, faces a lifetime ban from the sport. In 1999, she was stripped of the silver medal at the world indoor championships for a doping violation and was given a two-year suspension that kept her out of the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Investigators: Steroids found in Greek coach's warehouse

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A coach of a warehouse used by the search at the center of a doping scandal involving the country's star sprinters uncovered small amounts of anabolic steroids, Greece's National Organization of Medicines said Monday.

The search of coach Christos Tsikos' facilities last week was part of an investigation into whether 2000 Olympic medalists Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou tried to avoid a doping trial on the eve of the Athens Games by staging a motorcycle accident.

A prosecutor and two inspec-

tors from the agency, the Greek equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, confiscated 641 boxes of food supplements and found that more than 1,000 of the supplements listed ephedrine as the main ingredient.

Also found was a small batch of medicine with steroids that came from the United States, Bulgaria and Germany.

Kenteris, the 200-meter gold medalist at the Sydney Games, and Thanou, who took the silver in the 100 meters, could not be found at the Olympic Village for an Aug. 12 drug test. Hours later, they were in a motorcycle accident that kept them hospitalized for four days.

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May-Walsh win all-U.S. matchup

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The all-American matchup in the Olympic beach volleyball semifinals turned out to be no match at all.

Top-ranked Misty May and Kerri Walsh made friendly rivals Holly McPeak and Elaine Youngs scramble for every point and pulled away in the second set for a 21-18, 21-15 victory on Monday.

May and Walsh are guaranteed to win the first women's beach medal for the United States. McPeak has come close twice, finishing fifth with May in 2000 and fifth with Nancy Reno in 1996,

when the sport made its Olympic debut.

The No. 1 Americans will play for the gold Tuesday against second-seeded Brazilians Shelda Bede and Adriana Behar, who defeated Australians Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson 21-17, 21-16 earlier Monday. McPeak and Youngs, the No. 4 seeds, will meet the Aussies for the bronze.

May and Walsh defeated McPeak and Youngs for the 14th straight time and for the 17th time in 19 meetings. McPeak and Youngs had plenty of reasons to think they would have better luck this time.

They've been the best pair in the world this summer, with six wins and 13 top-10 finishes.

The match was tied 10-all in the first set, but the 6-foot-3 Walsh put the top U.S. duo ahead for good with an angled tap over the net. Walsh then blocked a one-handed kill attempt by Youngs, and May punched a shot past the backpedaling McPeak and Youngs for a 13-10 lead. Walsh finished the set with an easy kill to open sand.

The teams were tied at 7-all in the second set before May and Walsh mounted a decisive 4-0 run, sending McPeak and Youngs diving and scrambling on every return. McPeak and Youngs staved off two match points before Walsh ended the match with another uncontested kill.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Warner extends U.S. tradition in 400 sweep

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Jeremy Warner became the sixth straight American to win an Olympic 400-meter title as he led a U.S. sweep of the medals.

Warner, 20, finished in 44.00 seconds — a personal best. He crossed the finish line with his arms extended in victory, followed by silver medalist Otis Harris (44.16) and bronze medalist Derrick Brew (44.42).

The United States has dominated the event since 1984, winning 13 of the 18 medals in the past six Olympics. Americans also swept at Seoul in 1988.

The three Americans hugged in the finish area, then began a slow victory lap with three U.S. flags.

"It means a lot. We all thought we could go out there and go 1-2-3. We did our best, we fought hard, and we all came out on top," Warner said, showing no sign of emotion. "It hasn't sunk in yet."

Warner has been tabbed to be the successor to Michael Johnson, who ruled the 400 for more than a decade and won gold medals in the 1996 and 2000 Games. Warner even has Johnson's old coach, Clyde Hart of Baylor.

"He won, that's all I care about. He executed just like we planned it. It was the perfectly executed race," Hart said.

The United States has won 18 of the 24 times the event has been held in the Olymp-



Christine Arron, left, of France, and Allyson Felix, center, of the U.S., run a qualifying heat for the women's 200 meters Monday in Athens. Felix led three American women into the semifinals, winning her heat in both the first and second rounds.

pics, including four medal sweeps — 1904, 1968, 1988 and this summer.

Women's 800: Britain's Kelly Holmes held off three competitors, including defending champion Maria Mutola, to win a thrilling women's 800 in the closest Olympic finish in history.

Holmes, the bronze medalist in 2000 at Sydney, finished in 1 minute, 56.38 seconds — her eyes wide, mouth open and arms spread like wings as she crossed the line just ahead of Morocco's Hasna Benhassi and Slovenia's Jolanda Ceplach. Both were timed in 1:56.43, and it took a photo to determine Benhassi had captured the silver medal.

Mutola faded in the final few strides to finish fourth in 1:56.51. Jeanelle Clark

of the United States led for most of the race, but ran out of energy on the final stretch and finished sixth.

Men's discus: Hungary's Robert Fazekas set an Olympic record with a toss of 232 feet, 8 inches (70.93 meters), beating the past two gold medalists.

Lithuania's Virgilijus Alekna, the defending champion, settled for the silver after failing to improve on his opening toss of 229-3 (69.89).

Hungary also won the bronze: Zoltan Kovacs won 219-11 (67.04).

Fazekas broke the Olympic discus mark of 227-8 (69.40), set by Germany's Lars Riedel in winning the gold at Atlanta in 1996. Riedel did not make the final group Monday.

Cassidy Malone of the United States finished seventh.

Women's 5000: Meseret Defar of Ethiopia won with a time of 14 minutes, 45.65 seconds.

Isabella Ochichi of Kenya won the silver in 14 minutes, 48.19 seconds; Tirunesh Dibaba of Ethiopia took bronze in 14 minutes, 51.83 seconds.

Women's triple jump: Cameroon's Françoise Mbango Etone beat her previous best of 10 inches to win gold with a leap of 50 feet, 2½ inches (15.30 meters).

Hrysopiya Devetza of Greece won the silver at 50-½ (15.25).

Women's 20k racewalk: Athanasia Tsoukalea of Greece kept the crowd going early Monday, winning the 20-kilometer walk in 1 hour, 29.12 seconds, then parading around the stadium with a Greek flag.

Hamm gets silver in a raucous finale

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A week's worth of controversy in gymnastics boiled over into the crowd Monday night during a bizarre evening in which American Paul Hamm won a silver medal on high bar and four-time Olympic gold medalist Alexei Nemov finished fifth, much to the crowd's annoyance.

Hamm scored a 9.812, tying four Cassina for first, but the Italian won a tiebreaker to take the gold. Japan's Isao Yoneda won bronze.

The showdown on the last event of the night was supposed to be between Hamm, the all-around champion, and Yang Tae-young of South Korea, who won bronze instead of gold in the all-around because of a scoring error.

But it was Nemov's daring routine with six release moves that caused the uproar. The crowd was furious over his score of 9.725 and boos and whistles for 10 minutes before Nemov asked for quiet.

Despite performing under the most awkward of circumstances, Hamm was practically flawless. He brilliantly executed his trademark three straight release moves without any problem, took a slight step forward on the landing and received a 9.812, a mark that outdistanced Nemov and was met with raucous boos.

Balance beam: All-around champion Carli Patterson won her third medal and the sixth for the U.S. women's gymnastics team, taking silver behind Catalina Ponor of Romania. Alexandra Eremia of Romania took bronze. The Romanian women have four medals, including gold in team competition.

Men's vault: Gervasio Deferr of Spain gave Spain its second Olympic gold medal in men's gymnastics.

Deferr finished with 9.737 points. Evgeni Saprtenko of Latvia won the silver with 9.706



Carli Patterson of the United States performs her routine on the balance beam Monday at the Olympic Games in Athens. Patterson won the silver medal.

points, and former world champion Marian Dragulescu of Romania took the bronze with 9.612 points. No Americans qualified for the vault final.

Men's parallel bars: Valeri Goncharov of Ukraine won the gold medal Monday, defeating Hiroyuki Tomita of Japan by 0.012 points.

Two-time reigning world champion Li Xiaoping of China took bronze. Paul Hamm tied for last among the eight competitors.

Duplicate all-around gold for South Korean unlikely

BY NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The U.S. Olympic Committee would consider supporting South Korea's bid to pursue a duplicate gold medal for one of its gymnasts to make up for the scoring error that gave American Paul Hamm the all-around title.

But the International Gymnastics Federation would have to support such an agreement, and its president, Bruno Grandi, told The Associated Press on Monday night that cannot happen.

"I don't have the possibility to change it," Grandi told the AP. "Our rules don't allow it."

Hamm won the gold medal Wednesday after judges incorrectly scored Yang Tae-young's parallel bars routine, failing to give him enough points for the level of difficulty. Yang ended up with the bronze while Hamm became the first American man to win the all-around title.

USOC officials met with members of the South Korean Olympic Committee and were trying to find an "equitable solution," said Darryl Seibel, a spokesman for the USOC.

"We have indicated to them that we would be willing to consider the notion of a second gold medal being awarded," Seibel told the AP. "It's up to the Korean Olympic Committee to determine how it wants to proceed. There's a willingness to at least consider this idea."

Jae Soon-yoo, an official for the South Korean delegation, was in a meeting Monday afternoon and didn't have an immediate comment.

If the USOC and the South Koreans do reach an agreement, it doesn't automatically clear the way for Yang to get a gold. The FIG would have to ask the International Olympic Committee to award a second gold medal — but that would mean FIG also would have to rewrite its rulebook.

Under current FIG rules, protests have to be filed immediately, and the South Koreans waited until after the meet to lodge their complaint. FIG rules also prevent scores from being changed once the meet is over.

Grandi said the Olympics would be longer by a week if the rulebook was rewritten to allow such appeals.

"When that green light finishes, it finishes the possibility for the coach to raise their hand," Grandi told the AP, referring to the light that goes on during a routine. "It was finished."

Asked about the furor Sunday night, Hamm said he understood why the South Koreans were upset, but he didn't think a second gold medal was warranted.

"The people I'm a little bit upset with is FIG because this matter should have never even come up," Hamm said. "The rules can't be changed after the competition is over."

Gymnastics roundup

Red Sox close within 5½ games of Yanks

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — One swing from Manny Ramirez got the Boston Red Sox even and one more from David Ortiz put them ahead.

Then it was Mike Timlin to the rescue Sunday night.

He pitched out of a jam after Ramirez fell down pursuing a fly ball and preserved the streaking Red Sox's 6-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

"Every time I hit one, David hits another one, so we're on a good pace," Ramirez said Sunday night after he and Ortiz hit back-to-back homers on consecutive pitches in the fifth inning.

Boston, with 12 victories in its last 15 games, moved within 5½ games of the New York Yankees in the AL East, the closest the Red Sox have been since June 28. Boston also has a one-game lead in the AL wild-card race.

"That's one thing you don't

want to do. When we start thinking about the Yankees, we start playing terrible for some reason," Ortiz said after the Red Sox swept three from the White Sox for the first time in four years. "We'll see at the end. We don't have time to think about the Yankees or anything like that."

After taking the lead in the top of the eighth, the Red Sox nearly let it slip away in the bottom half.

Carl Everett walked and Ben Davis followed with a routine fly to left, but Ramirez slipped and fell, and the ball went for a double, putting runners at second and third with one out.

But Timlin retired pinch-hitters Ross Gload and Timo Perez to end the threat.

"It wasn't wet. I just slipped out there," Ramirez said. "Timlin did an awesome job. He picked me up right there. Things like that are going to happen. That's why you've got teammates."

Davis was the first batter faced by Timlin, who said, "no, no, no," as he watched Ramirez slip.

Ortiz put the right-down down and saw him reach up with the glove and, OK, he's got a chance to make a great play and then the ball was behind him," Timlin said.

"At that point there was nothing I could do. I just told myself I got to go out and get the next two guys."

Curtis Leskanic (2-5) won by getting one out. Keith Foulke pitched a perfect ninth for his 22nd save in 27 chances.

Chicago has lost 19 of 27 and is under .500 for the first time since April 8.

The Red Sox staked Derek Lowe to a 4-0 lead that he couldn't hold. Paul Konerko's three-run homer in the fifth got Chicago back in it, and Carlos Lee's two-run homer in the seventh put the White Sox ahead 5-4.

But Ramirez hit Freddy Garcia's first pitch of the eighth for his 33rd homer, and third of the series, giving him 11 RBIs in the three games. "I threw a slider to the middle of the plate and he hit it real good. But he was the hitter I wanted to face," Garcia said.

"He was the best shot against Ramirez we had," Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen said. "My gut feeling was that he was the man to get him out."

Damazo Marte (4-5) relieved and Ortiz, who entered hitless in his last 15 at-bats, hit the first pitch out in right-center for a 6-5 lead. Ortiz's 31 homers match a career high set last year.

"You will have bad weeks, bad months, even bad years, but people see you still trying, and that's me," Ortiz said. "The last couple of days they had been pitching me good."

Lowe lasted 6½ innings, giving up seven hits and five runs. Garcia went seven-plus, allowing seven hits and five runs.

Johnny Damon and Orlando Cabrera opened the game with singles off Garcia. When Ramirez grounded to short, second baseman Willie Harris took the flip and his relay throw sailed past first. Ramirez got the RBI and moved to second on the error.

Ortiz and Jason Vartek followed with RBI doubles to put the Red Sox ahead 3-0.

Doug Mientkiewicz, who made a nice stop at first after the White Sox had two runners on the first, homered in the second — his first with Boston since he was traded from Minnesota last month.

Konerko's 31st homer came after Harris singled and Aaron Rowand reached on an infield hit when the Yankees' first baseman Bill Mueller's throw to second.

Addition of Wright keeps Braves among NL elite

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Atlanta Braves have won 12 consecutive division titles by reloading, rather than rebuilding. They've done it again this season with Jarrod Wright and J.D. Drew.

Wright won for the 10th time in his last 11 decisions, and Drew went 4-for-5 with a two-run double, helping the Braves beat the

Los Angeles Dodgers 10-1 Sunday for a split of the four-game series.

"They definitely know how to run an organization over here," Wright (12-6) said. "They get guys and put them in situations to succeed, and they've been doing it for a while now."

Chipper Jones, one of four players left from the Braves' 1996 NL division series sweep of the Dodgers, capped an eight-run second inning with a three-run homer.

The Braves, who won the season series 4-3, could hook up with Los Angeles again in the playoffs if the teams maintain their respective division leads.

"I think they're a lot like us," Dodgers right fielder Shawn Green said. "They have similar starting pitching, similar closers, and they play great defense up the middle like us. So if you were going to make two teams that were alike, these would be them. We match up really well, so it would be hard to pick a winner in a playoff series."

The Dodgers have had four managers, four general managers and five pitching coaches since that playoff series against Atlanta. The Braves have had only one of each during the last 14 seasons — Bobby Cox, John Schuerholz and Leo Mazzone.

That continuity has the Braves bidding for an unprecedented



Jarrod Wright (12-6) dominated Los Angeles on Sunday, allowing three hits over seven innings.

13th straight division title — not counting 1994, when the season was disrupted by a players strike.

"It's huge when you have stability in the front office and you have a Hall of Fame manager," Mazzone said. "The fact that all three of us have been together this long means that there's a program, there's a philosophy, there's a belief in place, and we don't change our way of doing things regardless of personnel changes."

It's something you don't see in sports very often anymore, but it's a tremendous way to go about getting things done right."

Wright allowed a run and three hits in seven innings, retiring his first 12 batters and his last nine. He walked none and struck out seven, including Milton Bradley three times.

The Dodgers got three straight singles with no outs in the fifth, including a run-scoring hit by

Robin Ventura. Those were their only baserunners against Wright, who beat them for the first time in four career decisions, including two starts.

Wilson Alvarez (7-4) lasted just 1½ innings and was charged with eight runs and nine hits in the shortest of his 13 starts this season. The left-hander, who had done a masterful job filling in for injured starters Hideo Nomo, Edwin Jackson and Brad Penny up to now, did not allow more than three earned runs in any of his previous eight starts.

"I could not locate my fastball and it got me in a lot of trouble," Alvarez said. "The only pitch I was able to throw for strikes was my breaking ball. I just tried to fight my way through it. I was just hoping they would hit it at somebody."

Seven of the eight batters Alvarez faced in the second inning got hits. Eddie Perez opened the scoring with an RBI double, Charles Thomas singled home a run, and Perez scored when Wright grounded into a force play.

Rafael Furcal and Marcus Giles each singled, and Drew followed with a bases-loaded, two-run double that chased Alvarez after just 40 pitches.

Jones, who has seven homers in the last nine games he has started, greeted Elmer Dessens with his 22nd home run — a drive to center that gave the Braves an 8-0 lead. Jones' 302 career homers rank fifth among switch-hitters, 12 fewer than former Dodgers outfielder Reggie Smith.

Marlins 8, Padres 3: Carl Pavano (14-5) allowed four runs in six innings, hit a home run and drove in two runners to lead visiting Florida.

Pirates 11, Diamondbacks 1: D'Angelo Jimenez hit a three-run homer and Sean Casey added a solo shot and an RBI double to lead visiting Cincinnati's rout.

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SPORTS



Red Sox hang on to beat White Sox, close in on Yankees, Page 30

Almost perfect

U.S. gives up first run, still wins 3rd gold

BY TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — They are America's newest golden girls — powerful and just a shade from perfection.

The U.S. softball team won its third straight gold medal with an unprecedented and nearly unblemished romp through the Olympics, capped by a 5-1 victory Monday over an Australian team, that, like the rest of softball's elite, never had a chance.

The Americans zeroed in on a gold medal, and were four outs from a tournament-long shutout before the Aussies scored a run — the first given up by the U.S. pitching staff in 54 2/3 innings.

One minor flaw on an otherwise perfect run on the game's grandest diamond: Women's softball has never been played better.

Lisa Fernandez pitched a four-hitter and Crystl Bustos homered twice in the Americans' best all-around game of the tournament.

Under the burning Greek sun and in swirling wind, the U.S. team pounded three home runs off Aussie ace Tanya Harding.

They moved over runners. They played stingy defense. They did everything right while thrilling 5,000 fans unlikely ever to see a team as good as this red-white-blue Dream Team of power and speed.

"Our whole team came together today," said Bustos, a two-time Olympian. "The bunting, the people getting on base, the hard-hit balls. Our defense was there. You can't beat it. The pitching was phenomenal. It's the best Olympic team I ever played on."

And maybe the best one ever assembled.

These Yankees, minus the payroll and pinstripes, were simply awesome.

"This is the greatest feeling in the world," said outfielder Kelly Kretschman. "We made it look easy but every game was tough."

Bustos homered twice off Harding, and the United States completed a three-game sweep of the silver medal-winning Aussies, the only team in the second class as the Americans in these games.

The United States outscored Australia 20-1 in the three-game sweep and finished the nine-game tournament by outscoring the field 51-1. The run total was just one of more than a dozen Olympic records that fell to the mighty U.S. squad.



United States pitcher Lisa Fernandez and catcher Stacy Nueman, background, celebrate as they win the gold medal game 5-1 over Australia at the Olympic Softball Center in Athens on Monday.

After getting the final out, Fernandez flung her glove high into the air and was swarmed by her teammates, who piled on one after another as if they were attempting to build a pyramid in the dirt.

The Americans are leaving Greece with what they came for: a gold medal for themselves, their country and a "team mom" who couldn't be there to share it.

A month before the Olympics, Sue Candrea, the wife of U.S.

coach Mike Candrea, died of a brain aneurysm while traveling with the team on its "Aiming for Athens" tour. She quit her job to join her husband of 28 years.

SEE GOLDEN ON PAGE 27

Medal count

Leaders after 184 medal events in the 2004 Olympics on Monday, Aug. 23:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	23	26	17	66
China	23	15	12	50
Russia	6	16	19	41
Australia	13	9	13	35
Japan	15	8	9	32
Germany	8	10	11	29
France	9	7	9	25
Britain	7	8	7	22
Italy	8	6	7	21

U.S. men's basketball team crushes Angola to end prelims

Page 28



Wariner leads American sweep in 400 meters

Page 29



Rookies give U.S. vets last shot at gold with upset over Germany

Page 27

